STARS STRIPES.



Accuser's brother contradicts himself in Jackson testimony



Coach invites DODDS players for AAU tryout

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Volume 63, No. 325 © SS 2005

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2005

50¢

Sharp COLA drop raises questions

Troops ask why adjustment was cut by 16 percent in February Page 3



Finding the bomb before it finds you



Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment and the 70th Engineer Battalion found a roadside bomb near the Mushada Bridge in northern Baghdad on Monday and called in explosive ordnance disposal soldiers.



VINCE LITTLE/Stars and Strine MATTHEW WESTER/Cr

From left to right: Army Staff Sgt. Vernon Smith, left, of Tallahassee, Fla., from the 766th Ordnance Company, is helped into a protective suit by Pfc. Wade Harrington, of Steinhatcher, Fla. Members of the EOD team maneuver a tracked robot toward the bomb. The bomb, a hollowed-out log filled with artillery wires, is detonated by troops. Minutes later, an unseen insurgent detonated a second bomb a few yards away as soldiers moved closer to inspect the initial detonation site.

STARS STRIPES. COMING SOON



Scene on Sunday

Pairs work well for workouts



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ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Croatia war crimes spat: The chanc-of the European Union starting membership negotiations with Croatia next week were extremely slim Wednesbecause several EU nations believe Zagreb has failed to fully cooperate with the international war crimes tribunal, diplomats in Brussels, Belgium, said.

EU ambassadors will assess the issue on Thursday, but diplomats said there was widespread resistance to starting the negoti-

ations on March 17 as originally planned. EU officials said Chief U.N. prosecutor Carla Del Ponte wrote the 25 EU members last week, saying that Croatian war crimes suspect retired Gen. Ante Gotovina was within reach of Croatian authorities yet that they failed to arrest him.

Nepal civil liberties: Nepal's main royalist party urged King Gyanendra on Wednesday to lift curbs on political parties, release all detainees, and restore fundamental rights suspended since the monarch imposed emergency rule.

"The political parties and the fundamental rights are the pillars of constitutional monarchy," said Pashupati Shamsher Rana, president of the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party. "All political detainees should be released and press freedom should be re-

British terrorism bill: The British government, struggling to pass a sweeping new anti-terrorism law, announced Wednesday that it would make concessions in a bid to win the approval of legislators who threaten to block it

In the past two days, the government has suffered crushing defeats in Parliament's upper chamber, the House of Lords, where ers threaten to derail the Prevention of Terrorism Bill. Critics of the legislation say it erodes fundamental civil liberties, including the right to a fair trial.

States

Trial for Fresno murders: In graphic testi-mony that made some jurors recoil, the niece of a man charged with killing nine of his children described the sexual abuse she endured while living in his household

Sofina Solorio testified Tuesday in Fresno, Calif., that the abuse by Marcus Wesson escalated from touching to oral sex to intercourse. Wesson forced his nieces and daughters to perform sexual acts on him and on each other as he watched, according to testi-

Wesson, 58, has been charged with murder and with several counts of sexual abuse of minors. He pleaded innocent to all

Radio station shooting: In an effort to avert "rap war" violence, the union that owns the building housing New York's hip hop station Hot 97 has demanded that visiting artists be accompanied by no more than one companion.

The New York District Council of Carnenters, the city's carpenters' union, also wants artists to notify WQHT-FM a week in advance who will be accompanying them, so security measures can be taken if neces-



Human smuggling murder trial: Truck driver Tyrone Williams, left, is escorted Tuesday by federal marshals into the federal courthouse in Houston for the start of his murder trial in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants in 2003. Authorities say Williams, 34, a Jamaican citizen who lives in Schenectady, N.Y., was hired by a smuggling ring to transport more than 70 illegal immigrants in his hot, airless tractor-trailer. Witness Abelardo Flores, who admitted he had a long history of immigrant smuggling and cocaine use, testified Tuesday that Tyrone Williams had to know "something wasn't right. You open the doors if you care about the people."

sary, the Daily News reported in Wednes-day editions. field-Selma High School. Thirty-eight honors chemistry students day editions.

The move was sparked by a Feb. 28 shooting that took place in the lobby of the Hot 97 studios after rapper 50 Cent announced he was dropping former protege The Game from his G-Unit clique

Yearbook gun-photo trial: A student's bid to appear with a shotgun on his shoulder in his high school yearbook portrait went to trial Tuesday in Concord, N.H., with his lawyer trying to prove that administrators, not students, banned the pose.

In a preliminary decision last month, federal judge Steven McAuliffe ruled that stu-dent editors of the Londonderry High School yearbook made the decision. That weakened Blake Douglass' case that his freedom of expression was being violated, since student editors have their own First Amendment protections for editorial decisions.

Cosby civil lawsuit: A former Temple University employee filed suit Tuesday against comedian Bill Cosby in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia, alleging that the actor sexually assaulted her in his Main Line mansion and then defamed her when the allegations became public.

The civil suit filed by a Pickering, Ontario, woman seeks compensation for an al-leged sexual assault in January 2004 and for defamation stemming from statements that Cosby and his agents made about her to various news outlets.

Firing over milk experiment: A Smith-field, N.C., high school teacher who staged a class experiment that encouraged students to drink milk until they vomited has lost another attempt to win his job back.

North Carolina Superior Court Judge E. Lynn Johnson ruled Monday that the Johnston County School Board had "suffi-cient cause" to fire Jeff Ferguson following his November 2003 experiment at Smith-

volunteered to participate in the milk-guzzling experiment, which Ferguson said was designed to test the body's ability to neutralize acids.

Wright house sold: A Frank Lloyd Wright house in Chicago that sat on the market for months was auctioned Tuesday for an undisclosed amount, a real estate company said.

The 1915 house had been on the market for several months and went unsold even as the asking price dropped from \$2.5 million to \$1.9 million. The owner then took the unusual step of putting the house on the auction block

Frank Diliberto, senior vice president of Inland Real Estate Auction, would not di-vulge the sale price of the Prairie-style home, and those who attended the auction signed confidentiality agreements prohibit-ing them from disclosing it.

Judge's family murders: An attorney for ailed white supremacist Matthew Hale said Hale's mother asked him to relay an encoded message from Hale to one of his supporters, The New York Times reported Wednes-

Hale, who awaits sentencing for soliciting the murder of a federal judge, has been a focus of the investigation into last week's shooting deaths of the judge's husband and mother

Lawyer Glenn Greenwald said Hale's mother, Evelyn Hutcheson, asked him a few months ago to pass the message to a Hale supporter

He said he declined to deliver it

U.S. District Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow found her 64-year-old husband, attorney Michael Lefkow, and 89-year-old mother, Donna Humphrey, shot to death in the basement of her Chicago home when she returned from work Feb. 28

Stories and photo from wire services

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Troops perplexed by sharp drop in COLA

Some question 16 precent cut, but recent decline in exchange rate suggests increase on way

By TERRY BOYD AND SCOTT SCHONAUER Stare and Strings

Soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen are asking how cost-of-living adjustments can go down with the dollar near historic lows.

On March 1, U.S. Army Europe issued a news release stating that the COLA would decrease about 16 percent for servicemembers in Europe due to "a gradual improvement in the U.S. dollar-to-euro exchange rate that began in January 2005."

But USAREUR officials could not explain the reason for the COLA dropping 16 percent. The command does not set COLA rates, only relays news about cost-of-living adjustment changes. said Elke Herberger. US-AREUR public affairs specialist. Herberger directed further questions to the per diem committee in Washington, D.C.

Since the beginning of the year, the dollar climbed from \$1.35 for 1 euro on Jan. 4 to \$1.32 on Feb. 23, or a 2.2 percent increase

There were COLA increases on Nov. 1 and Dec. 16, 2004, so the dollar's short-lived upward spike in February and the related decrease in COLA, caught many Europe-based Americans by surprise.

A 16 percent COLA decrease on the family's last paycheck was "unexpected," said Stephanie Jones, whose husband is an officer with the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division in Baumholder, Germany.

Jones said she doesn't see a rise in the dollar's value "to justifv" the COLA cut. Jones added.

In many cases, the recent drop

in COLA took more than \$100 from troops' pockets. Late last year, a typical E-7 was earning about \$800 in COLA. Now, he gets about \$680

"I can only speak for myself, but my COLA has dropped \$191.28 in a one-month period from 1 Feb 05 to 1 Mar 05," Petty Officer 1st Class G. Dean Mahaffey from Naples, Italy, wrote in an e-mail to Stars and Stripes.

"That is approximately a 15 percent drop in one month, and I have not seen any change that would (explain) why this has occurred," he wrote.

Why the COLA cut came all at once instead of incrementally is not clear. To be sure, there are many other factors in calculating COLA, including prices at stateside bases

The per diem committee, which sets Department of Defense allowances, generally adjusts COLA rates when there is at least a 5 percent cumulative up-ward or downward movement in dollar value against foreign currencies, according to an e-mail from Roy Sammarco, chief of the Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee

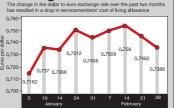
The committee's currency software accumulates weekly differences until there's a 5 percent change, Sammarco wrote. But the dollar rate never hit that magical 5 percent mark, Sammarco stat-

"You are correct in that the accommodation rate has not hit .7775," he wrote in response to an earlier Stars and Stripes query.

Repeated attempts to reach Sammarco for clarification were unsuccessful.

The accommodation rate is the

Dollar's gain lowers COLA



rate at which U.S. military-affiliated banks can sell euros. The closest that rate came was .7635 on Feb. 9, according to the Heidelberg-based 266th Finance Command's Web site.

Sammarco was traveling, according to a spokesman at his office, and only per diem committee members can address COLA issues, said Paul Boyce, a spokesman for Army personnel issues.

The decrease in COLA may be short-lived. USAREUR stated in

Over the 15 days that should have determined the COLA for soldiers' final February pay, the dollar's value rose - using the 266th Finance Command's figures — from \$1.32 to \$1.28 per euro, or an increase in value of 3 percent. And in the eight-day lag period, the actual exchange rate has once again headed down, trend acknowledged in the US-AREUR release.

"The dollar to euro exchange

rate has recently declined from mid-February 2005 levels," the re-lease stated. "If this trend continues, servicemembers can expect an increase in their COLA when the downward movement in the exchange rate reaches the 5 percent threshold.

Whatever the reason for the COLA cut, servicemembers say they're still using a dollar that is worth only about 75 euro cents.

That has a big impact when paying phone and the cable television bills in euros, Jones said. "I'll think twice about going

shopping on the economy, said Most of all, people are left won-

dering what hannened "Prices," said Master Sgt. Rob-

ert Boufford, assigned to the 723rd Air Mobility Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, "have gone up, not down.'

E-mail Terry Boyd at: boydt@mail.estripes.osd.mil E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

A hit to the pocketbook



Diem Committee announced last week that cost-of-living allowances for many servicemembers in Europe decreased in their latest paychecks.

The COLA rates reflect a percentage of how much higher the cost of living is in military communities in Europe compared to stateside bases. For example, the stateside COLA index is set at 100 so a COLA index of 130 in Heidelberg means that it is 30 percent more expensive to live in Heidelberg than at the average A look at COLA rates for selected

communities:

GERMANY Frankfurt am Main

SPAIN

Garmisch	138				
Heidelberg	130				
Kaiserslautern	130				
Ramstein	130				
Vilseck/Grafenwöhr	124				
Würzburg/Kitzingen	130				
ITALY					
Aviano	134				
Gaeta	142				
Naples	144				
Sigonella	142				
Vicenza	132				
ENGLAND					
Alconbury	134				
Lakenheath/Mildenhall	134				

PETER IAEGER/Store and Strin

Aviano Elementary principal tops in DODDS-Europe Thomas Ellinger, superintenshe served various roles in Turpils of different grade levels, al-



Aviano Elementary School principal Melissa Klopfer was named the top elementary school principal in DODDS-Europe.

By Russ Rizzo Stars and Strines

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy Aviano Elementary School principal Melissa Klopfer was named elementary school principal of the year for Department of Defense Dependents Schools in Europe on Friday, a month after DODDS-Europe named Aviano's high school principal the best in

"It's like a two-run home run," DODDS-Europe spokesman David Ruderman said.

Klonfer now will be considered for principal of the year for all of DODDS in the elementary school category. Aviano High School principal Doug McEnery is being considered in the high school category. In addition, Aviano High School assistant principal Susan Page won the Department of Defense-wide award last year.

dent of the Mediterranean District, which includes 18 schools in Italy, Spain and Turkey, said he was impressed with Klopfer the first time he

met her more than two decades ago. A kindergarten teacher in Iwakuni. Japan, at the time. Klopfer stood out with her command of a classroom and personal interaction with pupils. said Ellinger

who had visited the school on a site inspection. "She was just

dynamic," Ellinger said.

Ellinger later tapped Klopfer to serve as principal of an elementary school in the Azores, after

key and Japan. He recalled seeing her office filled with children one morning and was impressed to learn that Klopfer mentored select pupils, he

said 44As teachers we are When Aviano Elementary opened three

years ago, Ellinger picked Klopfer to head it. The school has about 750 pu-Klopfer

a constant em-

every teacher. mains the dynamic teacher Melissa Klopfer she was two de-Principal. cades ago, El-Aviano Elementary School linger said, with

tauaht to find

the genius in

every child, But

mu job is to find

the genius in

phasis on reading and personal interaction with children. One program that stands out in Ellinger's mind: Aviano Elementary School has three classes that include pulowing children to advance according to their skills rather than age, he said. "Ideas just pop out of her head." Ellinger said

Klopfer still finds time to men-

tor children. Two of her pupils. whose parents are out of the country for Air Force training, carry her cellular telephone number with them, she said Klopfer said her role in consoli-

dating three elementary schools - from Aviano, Perdenone and Vagont - into one school with 765 children probably helped her earn the nomination. She was involved with everything from fire escape plans to building new curricula, she said.

"As teachers we are taught to find the genius in every child," Klopfer said. "But my job is to find the genius in every teacher."

E-mail Russ Rizzo at:

rizzor@mail.estrines.osd.mil

At Ramstein, a load of work and more ahead

Busy AF squadron to see increase in cargo traffic when Rhein-Main closes

Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE Germany . With the push of the button, the pallet gen-

tly rolls down the track and through a sliding door.

The cargo disapfour-story warehouse, where a large crane automatically hoists the pallet and moves it to the right spot like the steady hand of a librarian sliding a book onto the top shelf.

The robotic rolling crane and ware-house, called the Mechanized Material Handling System, is a critical piece of machinery that helps the 723rd Air Mobility Squadron move thousands of pounds of cargo daily.

Without it. squadron would have had a difficult time shipping the more than 200 000 tons of cargo, from food to

ammunition. The automated system is the centerpiece to what the squadron does but the 723rd commander Col. Jeffrey Derrick, is quick to credit the unit's roughly 750 people for making things go relatively smoothly

"The people make it work," Derrick said

The squadron moves more cargo than any other Air Force squadron in Europe and the pace is only expected to quicken by the end of the year. The amount of cargo the unit has moved has doubled since 2001 and the additional number of passengers coming through the U.S. mili-

tary's main transportation hub in Europe will make things even

busier Much of the cargo going through Ramstein heads to places such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan and Iraq.

"It never down here," said Mas-Sgt. Brian McDaniel, the squadron's noncommissioned officer in charge of special han-

Airmen are already working long days, but they could get longer as the Air Force gradushutters Rhein-Main

The heavy workload will fall upon people such as Senior Airman Brian Tate, who keeps track of the hulking cargo planes that come in and out of Ramstein like rigs passing through a truck stop on Germa-

ny's autobahn. But he is unfazed by the prospect of busier days ahead "I grew up on a farm," said Tate, who is

from Tuscaloosa, Ala. "This is cake How well the squadron will be able to

handle additional cargo and passengers depends largely on construction upgrades to the ramp and the passenger terminal. If those projects are delayed, it



The robotic crane and warehouse that

arrived on base last year is the U.S. mili-

Airman Zach Fuchs helps load a pallet onto a forklift Wednesday at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. The 723rd Air Mobility Squadron transports more cargo than any other air base squadron in Europe and expects to take on more when Rhein-Main Air Base closes this year.

going to happen

until it happens. 77

Aerial port flight commander,

723rd Air Mobility Squadron

Maj. Leigh Method

could be a greater challenge.

Right now, the base has enough room for 14 to 15 large cargo aircraft. But after tary's largest, fully automated cargo hanconstruction is complete by the end of this year,

there will be morn for more than two dozen aircraft, such as C-5s and Maj. Leigh Method, the squadron's aerial

port flight commander, said the most difficult part of taking on more cargo and people is that they really won't know how it will work until the day Rhein-Main closes later this year.

"There's a lot of planning and testing," Method said. "But you don't know what's going to happen until it

dling system and will

44 There's a lot of help the squadron carry the load. The wareplanning and house can store more than 450 pallets at a testina, But you time and the crane can don't know what's do the job in a fraction of the time of manually

> driven forklifts. The question is whether airmen can take on the extra work

Squadron members are optimistic. "There isn't a single

person [with the squadron1 who doesn't under-

stand the importance of the mission,'

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Report: Australian, U.Ś. soldiers charged after gun found in bag

Air Force Staff Sgt. Dan Baird

at Ramstein Air Base.

steadies a pallet onto his forklift

ISTANBUL, Turkey - A U.S. soldier and an Australian soldier who crossed into Turkey from neighboring Iraq could face up to three years in prison after a gun was allegedly found in the American's luggage as the two tried to board a flight in Turkey, a news agency reported Wednesday.

A court in the city of Diyarbakir, in southeastern Turkey, charged Christopher Franz Pipes and Ross Milosevic of Australia with carrying firearms without a license, after a gun, which was in

American's luggage at the city's airport, the Anatolia news agency reported.

The two had crossed into Turkey from Iraq and were boarding a flight from Diyarbakir to Istanbul. Anatolia said

The two were freed pending the trial, the agency said. The charges carry a penalty of between one and three years in pris-

The U.S. Embassy could not confirm the report. An Australian Embassy official said he could not comment, citing privacy laws.

Breedlove wins USAFE award

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy - Brig. Gen. Philip Breedlove was named the most community-friendly commander in U.S. Air Forces in Europe, winning a 2004 USAFE Public Affairs Achievement Award for "special achieve ment for community support,

the Air Force announced this

Breedlove, commander of the 31st Fighter Wing, has

been a critical factor in gaining local support for the Air Force when public opinion in Italy is opposed to U.S. policies, according to Capt. Eric Elliott, a base spokesman who nominated Breedlove for the

Breedlove takes questions from callers on Z-FM radio for an hour every other week and has participated in 36 community events in the past six months, including an Italian-American Friendship Day in September that drew more than 2,000 participants, Elliott said.



An early-morning fire Tuesday destroyed the recently renovated Range No. 5 at the Wackernheim Range near McCully Barracks in Wackernheim. Germany.

German and American firefighters and police responded to the 1 a.m. fire. No injuries were renorted.

The range, which is 50-by-30 meters or roughly half the size of a football field, was renovated in September and had \$100,000 worth of work done to it. However, the entire cost of the fire damage has not been determined, said Donna Dean, 221st Base Support Battalion spokeswom-

The Wackernheim Range is a standard U.S. Army rifle range consisting of six ranges used to train and qualify soldiers on a variety of weap-

The cause of the fire is not known. American and German authorities are investigating.



Students go high-tech at school's video forum

BY RICK EMERT

Some DODDS video production students were in high-tech heaven this week during the Take One video symposium at Hohenfels High School in Germany

Twenty-three students from the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe worked on state-of-the-art equipment and software that is used by professionals in video production, according to Larry Bruce, educational technologist leader for the Bayaria District.

The 21/2-day symposium was an intensive learning event, which ran Monday through Wednesday. During the mornings, students learned about software, equipment and techniques. During the afternoons, they worked on actual products, which were reviewed by all in attendance on the final day, Bruce said.

"The students are working from the time they wake up until they go to bed," Bruce said. "They are very driven."

Teachers from the participating schools - Ansbach, Hohenfels, Patch and Vilseck high - were on hand to lead



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Dave Bickham records a song in digital format Tuesday for a video project at Hohenfels High School, Germany, during the Take One video symposium, Watching Bickham are, from left, Rayen Morales, Lauran Mier and John Valle, all from Patch High School.

the classes. Subjects included shooting and editing video in the field, recording a garage-band soundtrack and using editing software to complete the project. Bruce said

The students were selected by video production teachers for the workshop and are to return to their schools to teach other students what they learned, he said.

The students, getting their first big taste of professional video production, were hooked, despite the long hours.

"This is definitely going to be one of my [college] majors," said Courtney Pirosko, a Patch High School junior. "Whether you want to be in front of the camera or be-

hind it, this really helps you understand the big picture of a production.

A newcomer to the video production program at Ansbach, se nior Mike Ewing said he studied harder to prepare for the sympo-

"When they opened up video production program at my school last year. I couldn't take it because of scheduling conflicts," he said. "I took it this year and studied a little harder to catch up to

where other students were "This symposium is an awe some program that gives students another career opportunity to

E-mail Rick Emert at: emertr@mail.estrines.osd.mil

School staff acts to help sick boy

BY BEN MURRAY Stars and Strines

BAD KISSINGEN, Germany -Quick reactions and cool nerves from staff members at Bad Kissingen Elementary School helped stabilize a little boy who went into a fever-induced seizure while at the school.

Lawanna Horton, the boy's mother, said she was attending a parent-teacher conference at the school last month when her 1-year-old son Garrett became ag-itated in his stroller.

Within minutes, she said, her son began to shake, his eyes became fixed and he stopped responding to her calls.

"His temperature just shot up all of a sudden," she said. "He would blink every now and then, but he would not respond to us.'

Horton grabbed the boy and ran into the school's front office, yelling for help. There she found the school nurse, Nicole Austin.

Caring for the boy quickly became a team effort, said school secretary Alba Torres, who was in the office at the time. While Austin took the lead in stabilizing Garrett. Steve Reinfurt. a first-grade teacher with emergency medical training, arrived to assist, she said.

Another teacher called Ger-

man paramedics.
"Everyone, amazingly, was calm," Torres said, but the experience was harrowing. "As a par-ent, it was scarv, and you feel pretty much impotent."



Lawanna Horton holds her 1-year-old son, Garrett, just a few days after the boy's return from a six-day stay at the hospital for repeated, fever-induced seizures. Two of Garrett's sisters, Kaylee, 6, left, and Joely, 5, look happy that their brother will be fine

Little Garrett, whose father is Staff Sgt. Wendell Horton of Comnany A 1st Battalion 26th Infantry Regiment, remained unresponsive until the paramedics arrived, and has since spent a week in the hospital after suffering two more prolonged seizures, Lawanna Hor-

Other members of the family have had similar episodes - in cluding herself and at least two of her four daughters — but not so young or so frequently, she said, prompting her to hospitalize Garrett for tests two weeks ago.

Doctors said the toddler hasn't suffered any long-term effects, she said, and the seizures are not cause for serious alarm.

nail Ben Murray at: rrayb@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Airman dies in training

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, - An airman from Eglin Air Force Base collapsed and died while attending training at this Florida Panhandle installation. Tech. Sgt. James Smith, 38, suf-

fered a seizure Monday at Tyndall's alterations shop, where car-diopulmonary resuscitation immediately was performed, Air Force officials said Tuesday. Smith, who was attending Non-

commissioned Officers Academy, was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death remained under investigation, officials said in a statement.

Smith, of Atlanta, served about 20 years in the Air Force and recently had been selected for promotion to master sergeant. He motion to master sergeant. He was maintenance flight support section chief for the 33rd Mainte-nance Squadron, part of the 33rd Fighter Wing at Eglin, about 65 miles northwest of Tyndall.

Smith is survived by his wife, Joanne; son Jason, 11; and daughter Christina, 15.

From The Associated Press



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AF seeks volunteers for yearlong Iraq duty

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Air Force is seeking volunteers willing to spend a full year in Iraq to fill about 200 joint U.S. mili-

tary jobs, most of them in Baghdad.
Although one-year tours are the norm for the Army, the positions are the first one-year rotations the Air Force has under-

taken in Iraq.

Most Air Force deployments, which are managed under the service's Air Expeditionary Force, or AEF, cycles, are four months long — although some airmen with special skills that are in high demand, such as military police, can be deployed for six months.

nonths. U.S. Central Command officials asked the Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper to extend some of its Iraq tours in order to provide "increased stability and continuity of operations" in certain positions, according to Saturday's Air Force message about the extensions.

The jobs are a mix of enlisted and officer billets. Many of the positions are intelligence analysts, according to an Air Force list of openings, although transportation, personnel, budget and other support spe-

cialists are also in demand.

Air Force officials will first ask airmen
who are currently filling the billets as part
of their four-month AEF rotation if they
would be willing to spend an additional
eight months in Iraq, according to Air
Force spokeswoman Jennifer Stephens in

orce spokeswoman Jennifer Stephens. But "we're not going to make them stay," Stephens said in a Tuesday telephone inter-

Instead, the Air Force is seeking volunteers for the jobs, followed by an involuntary selection to fill remaining slots, Stephens said.

Both volunteer and nonvolunteer replacements for the airmen now posted in Baghdad will start their new jobs in July and August, Stephens said.

The rotations are not technically a "short tour" because the United States and Iraq have not signed a status of forces agreement, which normally covers permanent assignments. Stephens noted.

Instead, the one-year positions will fall under the category of "indeterminate length" temporary duty assignments, which allows the Air Force to offer entitle-

ments that are not available for standard temporary assignments, such as priority for follow-on assignments.

for follow-on assignments.

Air Force officials will also give airmen short-tour credit for the Iraq assignments, as well as exempting them from their normal AEF or other contingency deployments for six months following their re-

turn home.

The Air Force is also offering family members standard short-tour benefits, such as the possibility of moving to the airman's follow-on assignment location while their sponsor is in Iraq, Stephens said.

For more information on the Iraq one-year tours, contact your Air Force Personnel Flight, or go to: www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/procedures/ ExtendedTDYs/extendedtdy.htm

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil

Air Force's Blue to Green program off to slow start

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Strings

WASHINGTON — Only about 60 airmen have taken advantage of the Operation Blue to Green program in its first seven months, Air Force said Wednesday.

The program, launched to help reduce the 17,000 extra airmen in the service last fall while helping the Army with its manning shortfall, offers bonuses to Air Force troops to transfer into high-demand specialties with the Army.

Gen. John Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, said other retirement and relocation programs have been much more successful. The force is still about 7,000 airmen over its end-strength goal, but Jumper said he expects to reach that reduced level by June 1.

Air Force officials have done essentially no recruiting over the last five months and will welcome in about 18,000 new airmen this year — about 15,000 fewer than a typical recruiting class.

Meanwhile, Army recruiters missed their monthly recruiting goal in February, the first time they've come up short

in almost five years. Officials blamed the problem on public concerns about the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Under Blue to Green, most airmen who opt for transfer could retain their grade and rank. Sailors also are being sought under the program.

Jumper's statements came as members of the House Appropriations Committee reviewed quality of life issues for airmen. Several representatives expressed concern about the costs associated with the higher-than-expected level of personnel.

At one point last year the force had more than 24,000 extra airmen, but Jumper said the demands of Operation Noble Eagle and the global war on terrorism have "kept them all busy."

About 2,600 airmen are currently assisting Army units in Iraq with convoy services, mostly driving vehicles, Jump-

The general said he has dismissed suggestions of simply discharging servicemembers to reduce force numbers because of the potential damage such a move could do to morale.

NCO dies in training

SAN ANGELO, Texas — Authorities have arrested the wife of a Dyess Air Force Base airman who was found dead in a West Texas stock tank, accusing her of tampering with evidence.

Airman's wife arrested

Staff Sgt. Michael Leslie Severance's body was found on Sunday in a tank on a ranch located 15 miles northeast of San Angelo. The 24-year-old's death was ruled a homicide.

His wife, Wendi Davidson, was being held on \$50,000 bond on Tuesday in the Tom Green County Jail. If convicted of the third-degree felony, she would face up to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

An affidavit filed by the Texas Rangers says Davidson's brother told investigators that his sister said she had found Severance dead in bed and dumped his body in the tank.

An agent with the U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations followed Davidson to the ranch a week before divers found the body, according to the affidavit.

Severance's family said they told investigators that Davidson gave them conflicting reports about her husband's disappearance.

She reported him missing Jan. 15.

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — An airman from Eglin Air Force Base collapsed and died while attending training at this Florida Panhandle installation.

Tech. Sgt. James Smith, 38, suffered a seizure Monday at Tyndall's alterations shop where cardiopulmonary resuscitation immediately was performed, Air Force officials said Tuesday.

Smith, who was attending Noncommissioned Officers Academy, was taken to Bay Medical Center in Panama City where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death remained under investigation, officials said in a news release.

Smith, of Atlanta, served about 20 years in the Air Force and recently had been selected for promotion to master sergeant. He was maintenance flight support section chief for the 33rd Maintenance Squadron, part of the 33rd Fighter Wing at Eglin, about 65 miles northwest of Tyndall. He had been stationed at Eglin state of the Sta

The academy prepares NCOs for positions of increased responsibility by broadening their leadership and supervisory skills and their military professionalism.

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JEFF SCHRADE/Special to Stars and Stripe

From left, Rep. Steve Buyer, Sen. Larry Craig and Rep. Jeff Miller listen to testimony on the budget for veterans affairs programs during the Joint Veterans Affairs Committee hearing in Washington on Tuesday. Wounded servicemembers and their advocates decried what they say is insufficient funding for medical care.

Veterans protest VA budget plans

BY LEO SHANE III Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of disabled veterans booed and jeered Republican House members on Tuesday for their budget proposal for veterans' health care, which critics call inadequate to deal with the future needs of current troops. Following testimony before a pair of con-

gressional committees by officials from the Disabled American Veterans, or DAV, the crowd of more than 400 wounded and disabled veterans cheered House members who criticized the president's budget plans and heckled representatives who defended the spending. The loudest heckline was reserved for

The loudest heckling was reserved for House Veterans' Affairs chairman Rep. Steve Buyer, R-Ind., who was criticized by Democrats on the committee and rebuked the crowd at one point by saying "where the river is the shallowest, it makes the most noise."

The proposed 2006 budget includes a 1.1 percent increase for the Department of Veterans Affairs, which officials from the DAV called too little to deal with the large number of servicemembers expected to return from Iraq and Affainaistan with missing limbs, mental illnesses and other service indures.

In addition, the budget would require veterans without combat injuries and who make more than \$25,000 a year to pay a \$250 enrollment fee to use department health services.

James Sursely, national commander of the DAV, which calls itself the voice of service-connected disabled veterans, said he wants to see an additional \$3.4 billion added to the budget for veterans' medical care, and see the new fees removed.

But Republicans on the committee have already forwarded their budget proposals to House officials, and they include an enrollment fee and only slight funding increases.

Rep. Bob Filner, D-Calif., called Buyer and his supporters hypocrites for scheduling Tuesday's hearing without any intention of considering the veterans' budget concerns.

"This budget is an insult to our troops and to you," he told the crowd, who responded with a standing ovation. "This is unconscionable." Rep. Corrine Brown, D-Fla., called prom-

Rep. Corrine Brown, D-Fla., called promises made by Republicans "frankly a lot of [expletive]," and was quickly censured by Buyer as the crowd roared in approval. Buyer said the committee is focused on

Buyer as the Cuow roaden in aghrovar. On Buyer said the committee is focused to Buyer said the committee is focused with the control of the c

Army Sgt. Tyler Hall, a 24-year-old Alaskan who lost part of his left leg in an improvised explovsive device blast in August, said he attended Tuesday's hearing to learm more about the legislative process and see how he can help other soldiers like himself.

"The number of disabled vets is growing, so this affects us quite a bit," he said. "You almost automatically go into the VA hospitals, so we need to make sure the care is there."

E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@stripes.osd.mil

Commander reprimanded for Abu Ghraib

Karpinski was in charge of Iraq prison during detainee abuse scandal

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — One of the top commanders implicated in the Abu Ghraib scandal has been quietly handed a letter of reprimand, according to Army and congressional sources

Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, who led the 800th Military Police Brigade and the MPs who worked at Abu Ghraib, was issued the reprimand by Army vice chief of staff Gen.

Dick Cody in recent weeks. Karpinski was suspended from command duties after a series of high-level investigations accused her of sloppy leadership that contributed to problems of abuse

at the infamous prison. Karpinski's attorney declined to comment

It was unclear if additional punishment would be meted out against Karpinski, said

officials "The real question now is whether there will be a relief for cause," said one Army official close to the case, referring to perma-

nent loss of command responsibilities. Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast. whose role in the abuse as the chief of intelligence in Iraq was questioned in some corners, has been exonerated of wrongdoing

by Army investigators. Those findings are now being briefed to

congressional leaders. Fast was reassigned to Fort Huachuca, Ariz., several months ago. With the formal investigations now wrapping up, Army

leaders plan to install Fast as the commander of intelligence training there soon.

"The fact that she's there at all," said one Army official, "is a clear message that the leadership Army stands behind her."

There are no clear messages, however, being sent on the fate of Fast's boss in Iraq, Gen.



'A certain reluctance'

Sanchez led all coalition forces in Iraq for more than a year after taking over the reins of V Corps on June 14, 2003. Sanchez rejoined his staff in Heidelberg, Germany, after handing off command duties in Iraq to Gen. George Casey on July 1.

With Sanchez's two-year tour as commander of V Corps ending in a few months, it remains unclear what will happen to the Army's top military official implicated in the scandal

"No final decision will be made until the Army investigation is complete," said one senior Defense Department official of Sanchez's fate, but added "there is a certain reluctance to put him through another round of hearings again

Sanchez was grilled by congressional leaders in the wake of the scandal and would have to appear before the Senate again for confirmation to any new threefour-star assignment. Unless nominated and approved for another

assignment, Sanchez

would be forced to re-

tire. Through a spokes-Germany, Sanchez declined to comment.

At least two top investigations have already laid some blame at Sanchez's feet. Sanchez and his deputy, Maj. Gen. Walt Wojdakowski were criticized by several ton-level military investigations into Abu Ghraib for failing to ensure proper over-

sight of the detention facility. Lt. Gen. Anthony Jones, who led an investigation released in August, wrote that while Sanchez and his leadership cadre "did not commit the abuse at Abu Ghraib they did bear responsibility for lack of oversight of the facility, failing to respond in a timely manner to the reports from the International Committee of the Red Cross and for issuing policy memos that failed to provide clear, consistent guidance for execution at the tactical level."

Schlesinger, which led another investigation also released in August, arrived at the

Another investigation is due out this

Full reckoning

same conclusion

Vice Adm. Albert Church is expected to brief congressional leaders on his findings

Church, the Navy's Inspector General, was ordered by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to provide a broad-based review of all the investigations into detainee operations and address areas not covered by those reports.

Army investigations into the culpability of specific leaders are wrapping up as well And while Church was not directly tasked with addressing the question of leadership accountability, the topic is sure to be raised in the hearings.

"The accountability question is critical and continues to be," said one senior Senate staffer. Indeed, senators on both sides of the aisle - led by John McCain, R-Ariz., and Jack Reed, D-R.I. - have demanded a full reckoning for senior leaders and have raised evebrows at the fact that, so far, only junior enlisted soldiers have faced formal charges from the military.

E-mail Jon R. Anderson at jon.anderson@stripes.osd.mi

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30 American contractors hurt in suicide blast

3 killed; separate bombing kills GI

BY TODD PITMAN The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - At least 30 American contractors were wounded Wednesday by a suicide bombing near a hotel in Baghdad. Also in Baghdad, Iraqi officials

said Wednesday that 41 bodies some bullet-riddled, others beheaded - have been found at two sites, and they believe some of the cornses are Iraqi soldiers kidnapped and killed by insurgents.

In another attack, interim Planning Minister Mahdi al-Hafidh escaped assassination after gunmen opened fire on his convoy in Baghdad. One of his guards was killed and two others were wounded, po-

A U.S. soldier was killed and another was injured Wednesday when a roadside bomb detonated as they were patrolling in the capi-

tal, the military said. In the Baghdad suicide bombing, a garbage truck packed with explosives blew up outside the Agriculture Ministry and the Sadeer Hotel, which is used by Western contractors, killing at least three people, and wounding the 30 Americans, officials said. The bomber also died.

The U.S. Embassy said the 30 initired Americans were among 40 people hurt in the blast, but no Americans were killed. In an Internet statement, al-Qaida in Iraq purportedly claimed responsibili ty for the attack on the Sadeer.



An Iraqi soldier stands by the crater after a garbage truck exploded near a hotel used by Western contractors in Baghdad on Wednesday. The blast shook buildings and covered the area with acrid black smoke.

calling it the "hotel of the Jews." The bombing shook nearby buildings in the heart of the capital, injuring dozens of people and

sending up a huge column of acrid black smoke. Volleys of automatic weapons fire could be heard before and after the explo-Police said a group of insur-

gents wearing police uniforms first shot to death a guard at the Agriculture Ministry's gate, allow ing the truck to enter a compound the ministry shares with the adja-cent Sadeer hotel. Guards in the

area then fired on the vehicle, try-

ing to disable it before it exploded. Two other car bombings were also reported. Police 1st Lt. Mohammed al-Duleimi said one car bomber targeted an American checkpoint outside a base in Habaniyah, 50 miles west of Bagh-

Another car bomb exploded near U.S. troops close to a U.S. base in Abu Ghraib, just west of the capital, police Lt. Akram al-Zubaie said.

Tuesday, authorities found 26 corpses in a field near

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,509 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,149 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Tuesday.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 11,285 U.S servicemembers have been wounded, according to a Defense Department tally released

The latest deaths reported by the military

■ No deaths reported. The latest identifications re-

Rumana, a village about 12 miles

other officials said. Each of the bodies had been riddled with bullets - apparently several days earlier. They were died Thursday in Syracuse. N.Y., of a noncombat related illness after return from Iraq; assigned to the National Guard's 133rd Engineer Battalion, Belfast, Maine.

■ Army Spc. Adriana N. Salem, 21, Elk Grove Village, Ill.; died Friday in Remagen, Iraq, when her vehicle rolled over; assigned to the 3rd For-ward Support Battalion, Division Support Command, 3rd In-fantry Division, Fort Stewart,

Killed Friday in Ramadi, Iraq, when an explosive detonated near their patrol; assigned to the 1st Infantry Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Fort Carson, Colo., were the following:

Army Capt. Sean Grimes, 31. Southfield, Mich. Army Sgt. 1st Class Donald

W. Eacho, 38, Black Creek, Wis. Army Cpl. Stephen McGowan, 26, Newark, Del.

Iraqi troops on Tuesday found 15 headless bodies in a building inside an abandoned former army base, Defense Ministry Capt. Sabah Yassin said. The bodies included 10 men, three women and

Yassin said some of the dead men in Latifiya were thought to have been part of a group of Iraqi soldiers who were kidnapped by insurgents in the area two weeks

Bulgaria: Lack of communication likely in death

SOFIA. Bulgaria - A lack of direct communication was the likely cause of last week's killing of a Bulgarian soldier by U.S. troops in Iraq, the Balkan country's top military official said Wednesday.

Private Gardi Gardev was the eighth Bulgarian to be killed in Iraq and his death has sparked anew the debate on the Balkan country's military presence there, turning it into a campaign issue ahead of general elections in June.

Army chief-of-staff Gen. Nikola Koley said the two forces had not yet agreed on how to communicate with each other when Gardev was fatally shot near the Iraqi city of Diwaniya on Friday.

Supplemental war funds request advances

WASHINGTON - President Bush's request for more than \$80 billion in emergency money for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan advanced, largely intact, through a House committee Tuesday. The president would get much of what he asked for under the bill the

House Appropriations Committee approved. Its overall cost is \$81.2 billion, about \$650 million lower than the president's proposal. The full House is expected to vote on the bill next week. The Senate

isn't expected to produce its version until April.

The House bill would dedicate \$76.8 billion to war and reconstruction costs in Iraq and Afghanistan. That's \$1.8 billion more than the president wanted for defense-related expenses

Iraqi official hopes Saddam will be tried this year

BAGHDAD - Iraq's national security adviser said Tuesday he hoped the trial of Saddam Hussein would begin by the end of this year. I will be surprised if I do not see Saddam in the box before the end of the year," National Security Adviser Mouwafak al-Rubaie told re-

"I am very much hopeful that Saddam will be in the box around September and October, before the general referendum. Saddam was captured north of Baghdad in December 2003, and has been in custody with several of his top henchmen at a U.S.-guarded detention facility near Baghdad's international airport

Saddam will be tried before the Iraqi Special Tribunal, which was established in late 2003

The tribunal has given no official date for any of trials to begin.

ported by the military Army Spc. Wade Michael Twyman, 27, Vista, Calif. ■ Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael D. Jones, 43, Unity, Maine;

east of the western city of Qaim, near the Syrian border, police Cant Muzahim al-Karbouli and

found wearing civilian clothes and one of the dead was a woman, al-Karbouli said.

South of Baghdad in Latifiva.

Slain agent's death 'painful to bear,' Italian premier says

BY ANGELA DOLAND The Associated Press

ROME - The Italian intelligence agent killed by American forces in Iraq had U.S. military authorization for his operation to win the release of a hostage, Premier Silvio Berlusconi said Wednesday.

In his first major address since Friday's shooting strained relations between Washington and one of its biggest allies, Berlusconi told Italy's Senate that the car carrying agent Nicola Calipari and newly freed hostage Giuliana Sgrena stopped immediately when a light was flashed.

The U.S. military has said the Americans used hand and arm signals, flashed white lights and fired warning shots to try to get the car to stop.

The idea that Calipari was killed by friendly fire is "painful" to accept. Berlusconi said. But he reassured lawmakers: "The United States has no intention of evading the truth.'

"I'm sure that in a very short time every aspect of this will be clarified," he said.

Berlusconi, a staunch support-

Nicola Calipari had U.S. military's approval for hostage rescue mission, Berlusconi says

er of President Bush and the U.S.-led campaign in Iraq, is struggling to balance his decision to keep 3,000 troops in the country against heavy anti-war senti-ment among ordinary Italians.

His 10-minute address made no mention of ransom payments to win Sgrena's release. Some Italian officials have suggested a ransom was paid, but there has been no official confirmation.

Bush sent a letter to his Italian counterpart renewing his promise for a swift and thorough investigation into the killing, the Italpresident's office said Wednesday.

Italy has called the shooting an "accident," echoing the White House's characterization of the death, but has disputed the U.S. version of events and demanded that Washington shed light on the incident and punish those respon-

"The case of friendly fire is certainly the most painful to bear. It feels like an injustice beyond any sentiment. It's something unreasonable," Berlusconi said

"When Italian citizens have been victims of kidnappings, the government has always acted by following two directives: It has always rejected political blackmail, while at the same time activating all the political, diplomatic and intelligence channels to obtain the release of our nationals," he said.

Calipari was shot and killed Friday as he headed to Baghdad's airport after securing the release of Sgrena, who had been kidnapped on Feb. 4. Sgrena and another in-telligence officer in the vehicle were wounded.

In his letter to Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, Bush called the shooting a "terrible tragedy" and expressed his solidarity, Ciampi's office said in a

"In his letter, President Bush assures President Ciampi that the United States will move toward a swift and exhaustive joint investigation" between Rome and Washington, the statement added.

From The Associated Press

'We've got to be right every time' in bomb search

BY VINCE LITTLE Stars and Strines

In Iraq, it's rarely the bomb you see that will kill you. A group of engineers and

armor soldiers patrolling near Camp Taji, Iraq, on Monday proved how valuable a keen eye and healthy skepticism can be. Insurgents wanted the soldiers to find only one roadside bomb, but instead they found three planted in a deadly pattern.

Apparently, one of the devices was a decoy, designed to lure the 1st Armored Division soldiers into setting up a cordon of the which might have positioned them directly between the

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other two bombs, said Capt. Greg Spencer, 31, of Scottsville, Ky., commander of Company A. 1st Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment. "We don't normally have three

in one day like this, but these guys see this type of environment day in and day out," said Maj. Andy Boston, the 1-13 operations officer.

"Fortunately, we find a lot more of them than they find of us. But the kick is, we've got to be right every time. They've only got to be right once.

Three soldiers were killed and eight others wounded Feb. 25 in Tarmiya, about 20 miles north of Baghdad and just outside Mushada, by a similar roadside bomb, in which explosives were tucked into a hollowed-out log, Army officials said.

In the past week, the 1-13 Armor Regiment, boosted by members of the 70th Engineer Battalion, have uncovered six

Kaiserslautern, Bahnhofst

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U.S. soldiers secure a road Monday in northern Baghdad while a bomb is destroyed near the Mushada Bridge. The cordon area ensured soldiers and Iraqi civilians rema ned a safe distance from the controlled blast

roadside bombs and been hit by two. No soldiers have been hurt. The group is responsible for securing the road outside Taji — a primary supply route between Baghdad and Mosul — and protecting the convoys that use it, Spencer said. They took over that chore about 10 days ago following the departure of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Task Force.

Just after noon Monday, soldiers from the two units were moving toward the Mushada

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Bridge when Set, Joshua Jenkins and Sgt. Jonathan Wolford of the 70th Engineers spotted the first

"It had a wooden block underneath, keeping it from rolling down to the road," said Sgt. Ronny Myazoe, 26, of the Marshall Islands, a combat engineer with the unit who was with the group, "We had to check it out, Sergeant Wolford went around behind it and saw two wires coming out. That's when we told everyone to run.

They called in the 766th Ordnance Company, air support and additional ground units to help seal off the area, blocking traffic in both directions

Explosive ordnance disposal soldiers maneuvered a small, wheeled robot down to the palm log and blew it up at about 1:30 p.m. Thirty minutes later, the second roadside bomb went off.

Army officials speculated it was radio-controlled, targeting the EOD team approaching the first bomb. Immediately after the second blast, armored Humvees and tanks rolled into the area. searching for other logs and anyone who might have triggered the second blast. An Iraqi man, stand-ing about 500 yards from the first explosion, suffered a minor cut to his leg from a piece of shrapnel. He was treated at the scene by an Army medic.

No suspects were taken into custody, officials said.

Familiarity with the terrain has led to the team's early success in sniffing out roadside bombs, Spencer added.

'It's definitely a dangerous environment these guys are dealing with," he said, "but they drive this road a lot. They can see things that are out of place, and it tips them off. They've become very adept at it. They can tell you about each crater or hole out

Spc. Kevin Brown, 21, of Dex-ter, Mo., an M113A3 armored personnel carrier driver for the 70th Engineers, said the battalion is constantly aware of its surroundings and generally suspicious of all roadside items.

"We're always thinking, 'Oh, that might be one,' "he said, refer-ring to explosive devices. "We'd rather be safe than sorry, so we stop and check it out."



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Capt. Greg Spencer, right, of Scottsville, Ky., and Spc. Bladimir Joseph, from Long Island, N.Y., search through the wreckage of a previously exploded car bomb.

IN THE STATES

Jackson accuser's brother stumbles on story



Michael Jackson gives a thumbs-up to supporters Tuesday as he arrives at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse in Santa Maria. Calif.

BY TIM MOLLOY The Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — The brother of Michael Jackson's accuser was hammered by more cross-examination Wednesday, and said key points in his testimo ny contradicted an earlier account because "I was nervous when I did the interview.'

The 14-year-old boy testified this week that he twice saw his sleeping brother being molested by Jackson, both times by walking upstairs into Jackson's bedroom at the singer's Neverland ranch.

Defense attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. produced an interview the boy gave to sheriff's denuties in which he said he was lying on a couch pretending to be sleep when he witnessed the secand malestation "I was pretending like I was

sleeping. I was in his couch, the little couch," Mesereau quoted from a transcript

Mesereau asked the boy ques-

tions about whether his account of the second molestation had changed

"It was actually three times," the boy said.

Mesereau also asked him about what exactly Jackson was doing to his brother in the second incident and how he was touching him

"I was nervous when I did the interview," the boy said.

"So because you were nervous you didn't get the facts right," the attorney asked. "Yes." the boy said.

On Tuesday, Mesereau produced a transcript of grand jury testimony by a psychologist who interviewed the 14-year-old boy and reported yet another description of the second molestation with fundamentally different physical details.

Mesereau on Wednesday also challenged prosecutors' claims that the boys' family was held against their will at Neverland for nearly a month, getting the boy to acknowledge that the family left three times

your family escaped from Neverland and then went back so they could escape again?" Mesereau

"I don't get the question." the how said

The boy later said he only considered the third departure from Neverland to be an escape.

The witness also gave an account of how his sister received alcohol from Jackson that differed from the version the sister gave in her own testimony. The sister testified earlier that

she drank wine with Jackson and her brothers in a wine cellar. But the boy told Mesereau his sister received alcohol from Jackson in his kitchen and it was vodka

"It wasn't in the wine cellar?" Mesereau asked.

The boy said no.

The cross-examination of the accuser's brother began on Tuesday, when Mesereau got the boy to acknowledge that Jackson had not really shown him or his brother a particular sex magazine.

Northeast hit by cold blast

BY GREG SUKIENNIK The Associated Press

BOSTON - Whipping wind, plunging temperatures and a coating of snow and ice caused power outages and whiteout conditions, ending the Northeast's brief flirtation with spring.

The storm dumped as much as 10 inches of snow at Rutland, west of Boston, the National Weather Service said Wednesday. Six inches of snow accumulated in East Hartford, Conn., and northern New Jersey's Blairstown Township reported 4 inches.

Logan International Airport closed shortly after 8 p.m. Tuesday because of whiteout conditions in snow, but reopened one of its runways early Wednesday, Massachusetts Port Authority spokesman Phil Orlandella said. Hundreds of passengers were stranded at the airport overnight.

Massachusetts utilities reported about 22,000 homes and businesses lost power during the storm Tuesday, with fewer than 3,000 still blacked out Wednesday.

The storm had largely blown out of New England by Wednesday, with snow lingering only in northern Maine, but temperatures were as low as 2 above zero at Pittsfield. Mass., with wind chills well below zero

Little warming is forecast through the end of the week and the National Weather Service forecast a chance of more snow across the Northeast on Friday.

The storm system battered much of the East on Tuesday, from the snow and ice in New England to vicious thunderstorms in North Carolina

Several accidents involving jackknifed trac-tor-trailer rigs shut down sections of Interstate 95 in Connecticut during the night, and New Jersev highways were clogged by scores of wrecks.

The thunderstorms in North Carolina toppled trees and damaged buildings. In Cumberland County, an estimated 23,000 chickens died when the wind blew the roofs off a pair of chicken houses.



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Clinton put surgery on hold for tour

BY KAREN MATTHEWS

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Former President Clinton set out on a tour of tsunami-ravaged countries last month knowing he needed more surgery on his chest. But his doctors had given him the go-ahead, assuring him that this operation to fix a lung problem caused by his heart bypass - could wait. Clinton returns to the hospital

Thursday, almost six months exactly after having heart bypass surgery, to have fluid buildup and scar tissue removed from his chest. The condition was discovered during a recent X-ray.

The operation, known as a decortication, is described by his doctors at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center as low-risk

They will remove scar tissue that is pressing down on his left either lung

through small incision or with a video-assisted thorascope inserted between his ribs

sociated Press Television News.

after the surgery

In an interview with As-

Clinton said he knew he would be having surgery to repair the condition before he left with former President George H.W. Bush on the tsunami visit. He scheduled the operation for later because doctors told him he would not be able to fly

Clinton, 58, passed a full physical before going to Asia and scored in the 95th percentile for his age in a stress test, said Dr. Allan Schwartz, chief of cardiology at New York-Presbyterian.

On Tuesday, Clinton went to the Oval Office with the elder Bush to brief President Bush on their tour of South Asian countries that suffered heavy losses.

"I feel fine. I just had a little fluid buildup after my surgery," Clinton told APTN. "It's no big deal."

He was planning to play with Bush on Wednesday afternoon in a charity golf outing in Hobe Sound, Fla., organized by golfer Greg Norman for tsunami relief.

Clinton's wife, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, said she would be in New York for the surgery and was "very confident about the outcome."



















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Mount St. Helens spews ash plume

VANCOUVER. Mount St. Helens appeared to be settling down early Wednesday after a startling blast that shot volcanic ash to about 36,000 feet above sea level.

A fine dusting was reported as far away as 125 miles to the east-northeast in southern Grant County by the time ashfall stopped late Tuesday night, the National Weather Service reported. An ashfall advisory for some areas east of the Cascade Range was canceled at midnight.

"It looks like it's gone back to

roughly the same type of (earth quake) signal that we were seeing before," University of Washington seismologist Steve Malone told The Seattle Times late Tues-

Scientists said it was the most powerful blast from St. Helens since the latest round of volcanic activity began last fall.

The 30-minute outpouring began with practically no warning around 5:25 p.m. Tuesday, about an hour after a 2.0 magnitude quake on the east side of the 8.364-foot volcano, the most active in the 48 contiguous states,



me of ash from Mount St. Helens is released Tuesday in Washington. A 30-minute outpouring began without warning, about an hour after an earthquake hit the east side of the volcano

said Bill Steele, coordinator of the Pacific Northwest Seismograph Network at the university in Seat-

In the preceding hours there had been a subtle increase in quake activity, Malone said.

Scientists said the explosion did not appear to indicate a higher risk of a more dangerous blast noting that high levels of the kind of gases that often signal an eruption had not been detected in re-

Infrastructure lacking

WASHINGTON — Crowded schools, traffic-choked roads and transit cutbacks are eroding the quality of American life, according to an analysis by civil engineers that gave the nation's infrastructure an overall grade of D.

A report by the American Society of Civil Engineers released Wednesday assessed four-year trend in the condition of 12 categories of infrastructure, including roadways, bridges, drinking water systems, public parks, railroads and the power

The overall grade slipped from the D-plus given to the infrastructure in 2001 and 2003

"Americans are spending more time stuck in traffic and less time at home with their families," William Henry, the group's president, said in a statement.

The report said \$1.6 trillion should be spent over the next five years to alleviate potential problems with the nation's infrastructure

From The Associated Press



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L.A. mayor to face councilman in runoff

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Incumbent James Hahn and a Hispanic city councilman won slots in the May runoff for mayor after the third-place candidate conceded defeat Wednesday.

"I called Mayor Hahn this morning and congratulated him on his victory," Bob Hertzberg said during a morning news conference.

Nearly 24,000 absentee and other ballots remained to be counted, but Hertzberg trailed second-place Hahn by 5,800 votes, a margin his campaign concluded was too great. The decision puts Hahn in a May 17 runoff with Antonio Villaraigosa, who is within striking distance of becoming the first Hispanic to win City Hall in more than a century. It also gives him a chance to avenge his 2001 runoff loss to Hahn.

Hahn is in danger of losing his job despite a drop in crime and a growing economy.

In 2001, Villaraigosa, a high school dropout who went on to become speaker of the California Assembly, was also the top vote-getter in the primary, but he lost the runoff to Hahn, 53 percent to 46 percent. With 99 percent of precincts reporting early Wednesday, Villaraigosa led with 124,561 votes, or 33 percent.

The mayor tallied 89,189 votes, or 24 percent. That put him 5,800 votes ahead of Hertzberg, who had 83,420 votes, or 22 per-

Villaraigosa would have had to get more than 50 percent to win the primary outright, but his winning margin secured him a slot in the runoff for the second time in four years.

"L.A. is ready, and we're ready," Villaraigosa told cheering supporters at a Hollywood club Tuesday night.

Matsui to take husband's spot in U.S. House

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif.
Sounding themes familiar
from her late husband's 14
campaigns, Doris Matsui, 60,
handily won a special election
to fill his term and will become
the newest member of the U.S.
House of Representatives.

With all precincts reporting Tuesday, Matsui had nearly 72 percent of the overall vote and 88 percent among Democrats in a race marked by low turnout. She is expected to be swom in Thursday.

Matsui, a lobbyist and former Clinton White House official, completed what her television ads called a "unique-by Sacramento story." Succeeding her husband, the late U.S. Rep. Robert Matsui, she becomes the nation's 45th congressional widow since 1923 to assume the seat of her spouse.

"It feels bittersweet, but my heart is full of hope and promise," said Matsui, minutes after giving a victory speech.

Robert Matsui, who represented the Sacramento-area 5th Congressional District for 26 years, died Jan. 1 at Bethesda Naval Hospital of complications from a rare bone marrow disease. He was 63.

New York surveying homeless

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Phillipa Taylor headed into the city's dark streets early Tuesday to look for homeless people sleeping in the same doorways and alleys she called home a decade ago.

Some 2,000 volunteers canvassed the five boroughs for the first citywide homeless street

Officials estimate there are 36,000 people sleeping in New York's homeless shelters; what they want to know is how many never make it into the shelters.

City officials will use the information to create the most complete portrait ever compiled of New York's street homeless population, said Linda Gibbs, the city's Homeless Services commission-

"Up to this point there's been no accurate count," Gibbs said. "We want to understand more about who they are and where they are."

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development this year recommended that cities around the country count their homeless.

Volunteers were trained to approach people they meet, ask if they are homeless and offer them rides to shelters.



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MILITARY SALES



Kathleer Munger, of Holliston, Mass smokes a cigarette outside a restaurant, in Providence, R.I., in early March. Researchers are optimistic about finding a drug that will help people



Quit smoking with a pill?

Researchers working on drugs to cut nicotine dependency

BY MATT APUZZO
The Associated Press

GROTON, Conn. — Researchers are racing to develop a potentially lucrative drug that would make

smoking as treatable as erectile dysfunction, high cholesterol and acid reflux disease.

Major pharmaceutical companies and small start-

tups see the potential for billions of dollars in sales for a vaccine or a nicotine-free pill that could end addiction at the chemical level for America's 50 million smokers.

"It's the biggest addiction market there is," said Dr. Herbert D. Kleber, a psychiatry professor and addiction researcher at Columbia University. "Is it realistic to be able to help addicts stop smoking and remain off with a pill? I think the answer is yes and we're working on a number of them."

While nicotine patches, gums, lozenges and sprays help wean smokers off cigarettes by slowly reducing their dependence on nicotine, researchers are tailoring drugs to mimic or block nicotine's described resections gribt the beds.

chemical reactions with the body.

In Connecticut, researchers at Pfizer Inc. identified a brain receptor that nicotine binds to and designed a drug, varenicline, that latches to the same site. Varenicline is in Phase III testing, normally the last step before a company applies for approval from the Food and Drug Administration.

Researchers hope that the drug will attach to nicotine receptors in the brain, preventing overpowering cravings from setting in when someone stops

smoking.

If varenicline's claims hold up, the drug could generate more than \$500 million a year in sales, said David Moskowitz, an analyst with Friedman, Bill-

ings, Ramsey & Co.

"It's an unmet medical need," said Dr. Karen
Reeves, executive director of clinical development
for Pfizer. "The morbidity and mortality rate is so
high, and doctors and smokers really have not had
enough in their armamentarium to heb smokers

enough in their armamentarium to help smokers stop smoking."
Then there's NicVax, a drug that Florida-based Nabi Pharmaceuticals claims could be used as a nicotine vaccine. NicVax triggers the production of anti-

bodies that bind to nicotine molecules, preventing them from reacting with receptors in the brain. "Everyone has been looking for the magic bullet," said Thomas Glynn, director of cancer science and

trends for the American Cancer Society.
Whether one will be found remains uncertain, he said. It's more likely, doctors agree, that scientists will develop a number of successful drugs that will prove effective, but no single pill will "cure" smoking.

Doctors with high hopes have been let down before. In 1997, the FDA approved bupropion, commonly sold under the name Zyban, as an anti-smoking drug. The drug, which was originally marketed as an antidepressant, has proved successful for some smokers but was never the industry blockbuster some expected.

Cholesterol drugs in high doses help cut heart problems

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Giving people with modestly clogged arteries very high doses of a drug to drive their cholesterol down to very low levels cut their risk of strokes and heart attacks even more impressively than expected, the first study to test this strategy found.

Although some patients developed liver problems that forced them to stop taking the medication, researchers believe the benefits of this approach outweigh its risks. Still, specialists said more study is needed to establish its safety before it can be recom-

"This was a very gutsy study," said Dr. John LaRosa of State University of New York in Brooklyn, who led the large internation-

al study. "This is new territory."
He presented the findings
Tuesday at an American College
of Cardiology meeting in Orlando. They also were published online by the New England Journal
of Medicine and will be in its

April 7 issue. Statin drugs such as Lipitor, Scor and Mevacor have shown an impressive ability to lower LDL, or "bad" cholesterol, and reduce the risk of heart trouble. Recently, some doctors have advocated a much more aggressive strategy of driving cholesterol levels down even farther for cer-

tain people.

A study of this approach was funded by and involved many doctors with ties to Pfizer Inc., which makes Lipitor. It is one of six statins on the market. Guidelines advise people at high risk of a heart attack to get LDL to 70 and those at moderate risk to aim for 100.

A previous study found that giving high-dose statins to lower cholesterol below 100 helped people who recently suffered a heart attack. This study, in contrast, involved people who had clogged

High-dose statins further reduce risks

High doses of the statin drug atorwastatin to reduce cholesterol can decrease the risk of strokes and heart attacks. Major cardiac events were 22 percent lower among those on high-dose statins, though some developed

Major cardiac events after nearly five years

Low dose 10.9%
High dose 8.7%

Patients showing adverse effects related to treatment

Low dose 5.8%
High dose 8.1%

NOTE: Low dose 10 mg : high 80 mg

SOURCE: New England AF

SOURCE: New England AP
Journal of Medicine
heart arteries that occasionally

cause chest pain but were in no immediate danger of a heart attack. Up to 13 million Americans are in that category.

About 10.000 people in 14 coun-

ries took either 10 milligrams or 80 milligrams of Lipitor and brought their LDL levels to 101 and 77, respectively.

After nearly five years, 10.9 percent of those on the low dose had died or suffered a stroke, heart attack or other big problem, compared with 8.7 percent on the high dose. That means that patients on high doses had a 22 percent lower risk.

That is better than doctors had expected, LaRosa said. "Most of us thought that when

"Most of us thought that when you got to 100, going lower would be marginal at best," he said.

However, about 1.2 percent developed signs of liver inflammation on the high dose versus 0.2 percent of the others, which is in line with other studies that tested high doses of statins.

Study: Many children run behind on shots schedule

BY LINDSEY TANNER The Associated Press

CHICAGO — While overall U.S. immunization rates are high, many toddlers get their recommended shots several months or more late—delays that have probably contributed to some illnesses and deaths, a government study suggests.

By age 2, 37 percent of youngsters got at least one recommended vaccination more than six months late, researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found. About 20 percent of children had similar delays for four or more vaccinations. Timely vaccinations are "one of

the most important things parents can do to protect the health of their child," said CDC epidemiologist Elizabeth Luman. About 20 shots to prevent more than a dozen diseases are recommended for children in their first two years of life.

The study appears in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association. The researchers did not examine reasons for the delays.

The researchers analyzed data from a national telephone survey of families of 14,810 children ages 2 years to 35 months. Participants were asked in 2003

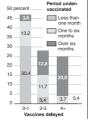
about vaccinations their children had received by age 2. A survey was mailed to participants' doctors to verify the information. By the time of the survey, 74 per-

cent of the children were up to date on their immunizations, but many had gotten their shots late. Among the most common de-

layed shots were those for pertussis, or whooping cough.

Late vaccinations By age 2, 37 percent of U.S.

youngsters received at least one recommended vaccination more than six months late. About 20 percent of children had similar delays for four or more vaccinations.



American Medical Association

Obesity pill confirmed

ORLANDO, Fla. — A second study confirms that an experimental diet pill can help people lose weight and keep it off for up to two years, setting the stage for its maker to seek approval to sell it in the United States.

The drug, rimonabant, which the French company Sanofi-Aventis SA hopes to sell under the brand name Acomplia, trimmed nearly 16 pounds on average from people taking the optimal dose for two years, compared with 5.5 pounds for those who took dummy pills, doctors reported.

"The majority of the weight that was lost at one year is still maintained after two years. There is only a slight increase over that second year," said Dr. Luc Van Gaal of University Hospital in Antwerp, Belgium, who led the company-funded study involving 1,507 severely obese people in Europe.

About two-thirds of American adults are overweight or obese; in European countries, one-third to half are. Diet drugs sold now are only for short-term use or have unpleasant side effects that make it tough to stay on them.

From The Associated Press

IN THE WORLD

Syrian soldiers start pullback

Lawmakers push Lebanon president to re-nominate former prime minister

BY BASSEM MROUE

The Associated Press

MDEIREJ, Lebanon — Syrian soldiers flashed victory signs and waved automatic rifles as they drove east through Lebanon's mountains Wednesday in the first phase of a pullback, as government lawmakers advised the Lebanese president to bring back his pro-Syrian prime minister forced.

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as prime minister would be sure to enrage the opposition, which is demanding the creation of a government clean of Syrian domina-

But Damascus is eager to keep its hold on the Lebanese leadership as it pulls its forces back to the Bekaa Valley, near the Syrian border, and negotiates with the government in Beirut on the troops' full removal.

In the mountains north and east of Beirut, Syrian soldiers were moving out in trucks from bases they have held for almost three decades, and — in some instances — Lebanese troops were taking their place.

taking their place.

The Syrians waved at watching journalists as they loaded supplies, packed up their personal belongings and drove east. One helmeted soldier riding in the back of one truck looked backward down the road, chewing and spitting watermelon seeds.

In Damascus, tens of thousands of people took over the main streets, singing national songs and proclaiming their loyalty to President Bashar Assad. One banner addressed to the president read: "We are all with you, who makes the right decisions."

Thousands of Syria's red, white and black flags with its two green stars streamed in the wind. "We sacrifice our blood and our souls for you. oh Bashar!" chanted



Syrian President Bashar Assad waves from the balcony of his presidential palace to greet a huge crowd that marched through Damascus on Wednesday to show support for Assad.

marchers in the upscale Mezzeh neighborhood,

"Nobody can get Syria out from Lebanon's heart and mind," a banner read.

"No for antagonist pressures against Syria," another said. The rally came a day after Syria's allies in Lehanon made a thundering show of their strength, with hundreds of thousands turning out for a protest organized by the Shite Muslim Hezbollah guerrilla group to denounce pressure from the United Nature, France and the United Nature, France and the United Nature, France and the United Nature States, France and States, France and the United Nature States States and States States and States States and States States States and States States and States States and States States States and States States and States States States and States States States States and States States States States States States and States State

Lebanese President Emile Lahoud was consulting with lawmakers Wednesday on who to name as prime minister. Karami was forced to resign on Feb. 28. Associated Press writer Joseph Panossian contributed to this report from

Experts suggest new U.N. agency to fight terrorism financing

The Associated Duce

MADRID, Spain — Financial experts urged world leaders Wednesday to create a new international institution under U.N. auspices to study ways in which terrorists raise money.

The draft recommendation, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, and experts attending a terrorism conference in Madrid said that some measures have been undertaken to curb terrorist financing, but not enough to cut the flow of funds to al-Qaida and other inter-

national movements.
"Terrorist financing has not been recognized as a priority in the fight against terrorism," said Loretta Napoleoni, an expert on terrorist financing. "It would be much more efficient if we blocked the money. And we haven't done that."

World leaders and experts attending the four-day summit here on democracy, terrorism and security are grappling with ways to combat violence without jeopardizing human rights. But fighting terrorism — particularly its fi-

nancing — is complicated, in part because terrorists get money using legitimate business as well as by kidnapping, drug dealing and credit card fraud.

"We don't have a clear image of how the money of terrorists moves around," said Petre Roman, the former prime minis-

ter of Romania.
Former French Prime Minister
Lionel Jospin stressed that international cooperation must take place within "the rule of law and respecting civil rights because they are the soul of democracy."

Jospin, Roman and former Colombian President Andres Pastrana said the issue of combatting the terrorist's financing network will be included in the draft recommendations of the four-day conference of leading terrorism experts from 50 countries and about two dozen world leaders in Madrid.

The finance working group experts suggested that in addition to the creation of an independent finance center under U.N. auspices, a judicial review process should be put into place to put anti-terror measures within a legal framework.

Poisonous snack kills 27 children at Philippines school

BY PAUL ALEXANDER The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — At least 27 elementary school children died and another 100 were hospitalized after eating a snack during morning recess Wednesday in the southern Philippines, officials said.

Francisca Doliente said her 9-year-old niece Arve Tamor was given some of the deep-fried caramelized cassava by a classmate who bought it from a regular vendor outside the San Jose school.

"Her friend is gone. She died," Doliente said, adding that her niece was undergoing treatment.

The roots of the cassava plant, a major crop in Southeast Asia and other parts of the world, are rich in protein, minerals and vitamins A, B and C. However, it is poisonous without proper preparation. If cassava is eaten raw, the human digestive system will convert part of it into cyanide. Even two cassava roots contain a fatal dose.

"Some said they took only two bites because it tasted bitter and the effects were felt 5-10 minutes later," said Dr. Harold Gallego of Garcia Memorial Provincial Hospital in the nearby town of Talibon, where 47 patients were taken. The victims suffered severe stomach pain, then vomiting and diarrhea. They were taken to at least four hospitals near the school in Mabini, a town on Bohol island, about 380 miles southeast

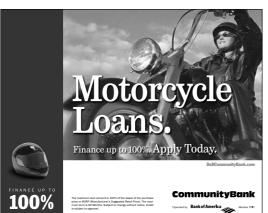
Mabini Mayor Stephen Rances said 27 students were confirmed dead. Treatment was delayed because the nearest hospital was 20 miles away.

Television footage showed sobbing parents carrying blanket-wrapped bodies from hospitals.

Some victims were still vomiting nearly 12 hours after editing the snack, said Dr. Nenita Po, chief of the hospital at the government-run Gov. Celestin Gallares Memorial Hospital. However, those who reached the hospital However, those who reached the hospital had good chance of surviving the had good chance of surviving the work of the control of th

Dr. Po said of one those brought there was the 68-year-old woman who prepared the food with another woman. Two girls, ages 7 and 8, were brought in with her; both died

A specimen of the cassava was taken for inspection at the local Crime Laboratory Group.





Aslan Maskhadov, then newly elected president of Chechnya, in 1997. Chechen rebel leader Maskhadov has been killed, a spokesman for Russian forces said Tuesday. Col. Ilya Shabalkin said Maskhadov was killed during the course of a "special operation."

Chechen rebels to carry on fight against Russia

MOSCOW - Chechen rebels vowed Wednesday to carry on their separatist fight against Rus-sia despite the death of their leader Aslan Maskhadov after special forces cornered him in an underground bunker in northern Chechnva

Russian legislators hailed Maskhadov's killing as a sign that Russia was on the right track in its anti-terrorist campaign, as they call the fight against Islamic militants in Chechnya and neighboring regions.

Russia's Federal Security Ser-

that Maskhadov had been killed in a special operation in the town of Tolstoy-Yurt. Russian television stations broadcast footage of a shirtless, gray-bearded corpse. and the rebel leader's envoy in London, Akhmed Zakayev, confirmed the 53-year-old guerrilla commander's death.

vice chief announced Tuesday

The ITAR-Tass news agency later cited the military commandant for Chechnya, Lt. Gen. Grigory Fomenko, as saying the body had been formally identified as Maskhadov.

But Chechen rebels vowed to continue fighting

a year for operations to secure Terror probe questioned HAMBURG. Germany -

U.S. investigator of the Sept. 11. 2001, attacks cast doubt Wednes day on statements made by a key al-Qaida suspect to U.S. authorities, including one presented as potentially exonerating evidence at the retrial of an accused aide of the suicide pilots.

Dietrich Snell, a New York prosecutor who helped write the U.S. 9/11 Commission report, said "there's a questionability about statements by Ramzi Binalshibh. In a key statement that U.S. authorities provided to the Hamburg state court, Binalshibh indicated defendant Mounir al Motassadeq had nothing to do with the plot.
But Snell questioned Binalshib-

h's assertion, noting that he said at one point that Zacarias Mous-saoui — the only U.S. defendant charged in the Sept. 11 attacks had been on standby in case one of the other hijackers pulled out.

Sudan reconstruction

NAIROBI, Kenya - Sudan needs some \$7.8 billion over the next 21/2 years for emergency reconstruction now that a 21-year civil war in the south has ended. government officials and former rebels said in a joint appeal Wednesday.

The plan, however, does not cover the troubled Darfur region of western Sudan, where a campaign of violence by pro-government militia fighting rebels has forced an estimated 2 million people to flee their homes.

Darfur needs another \$2 billion

the region and meet its humanitarian needs, said Ishac Diwan, the World Bank country director for Sudan and Ethiopia

Al-Qaida targeted Crowe

SYDNEY, Australia — Russell Crowe says Osama bin Laden's al-Oaida terror network wanted to kidnap him as part of a "cultural destabilization plot," according to an Australian magazine.

In an interview published in the March edition of Australia's GQ magazine, Crowe said FBI agents told him of the threat in 2001, in actor Oscar for his role as Maximus in "Gladiator."

Crowe said he was shadowed by FBI agents after the threat and hired private security guards

Brothers held in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan international human rights group has called on Pakistan to immediately charge or release two American brothers allegedly picked up st year by intelligence agents for

links to Islamic militants. New York-based Human Rights Watch also demanded that the U.S. government clarify its involvement in the case in a press release

The brothers — both U.S. citizens of Pakistani origin and identi-fied as Zain Afzal, 23, and Kashan Afzal, 25, — are known to be "Is-lamist sympathizers" who trained in Pakistan as guerrilla fighters with Hezb-ul-Mujahedeen, a Musmilitant group, the rights group said.

From The Associated Press

Tsunami warning system to be set by end of 2006

BY JOCELYN GECKER

The Associated Press

PARIS - Experts from the United Nations and Indian Ocean countries agreed to set up a tsunami warning system to prevent a repeat of the catastrophe that struck on Dec. 26, UNESCO said Tuesday.

A fully functioning system that detects undersea earthquakes and broadcasts warnings to coastal communities is expected to be in place by the end of 2006, said Patricio Bernal, executive secretary of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commis-

"The Indian Ocean countries have agreed among themselves to set up an early tsunami warning system for the whole Indian Ocean basin," Bernal told a news conference. The basin extends to the 11 southern Asian coastlines devastated by the December tsu-

At a five-day meeting at

UNESCO's headquarters in Paris, experts also laid out a timetable for the project and interim measures to help protect the re-

Officials hope to extend weather devices globally by '07

Japan and the United States are to begin providing alerts on seismic activity to the region starting April 1. The two countries have the world's most advanced tsunami warning systems, and a U.N.-coordinated network based in Ewa Beach, Hawaii, issues alerts for 26 Pacific Ocean na-

tions. Experts say a similar system in southern Asia would have saved many lives in the Dec 26 disaster. At least 173,000 people across Asia died in the tsunami. mostly in Indonesia. More than 125,000 are still missing and presumed dead. Work will also begin on install-

ing systems that can detect changes in sea level and broadcast the information in real time to countries in notential danger.

Tidal gauges will be installed at

six sites, mainly off the coasts of hard-hit Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia, Bernal said. Another 15 existing sites will be upgraded around the region.

"We expect to have all those systems operative by October or November," Bernal said. A second UNESCO-sponsored

meeting will be held next month in Mauritius to finalize policy matters and broach divisive questions, including whether one country would host a disaster warning center or if the responsibilities would be distributed across the region. Bernal said.

Member states plan to meet in June to formally adopt the plan, but work is getting under way immediately.

"We're not waiting for that to happen to work," Bernal said. "We are proceeding as we

Officials hope to extend the system globally by 2007 to cover other regions at risk, such as the Caribbean, the Mediterranean and the southwest Pacific.

speak.



Prince Charles' albatross

Royal wears feathers after plea to save birds

BY RAY LILLEY
The Associated Press

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Britain's Prince Charles wore a cloak made out of albatross feathers Wednesday, three days after he made an impassioned plea to save the massive birds from extinction.

the crown prince appeared unaware that the garment was made of albatross feathers when it was draped over his shoulders while visiting a Maori weaving exhibition in Auckland. No birds were killed to make the Maori cloak — the feathers were gath-

ered from a nesting colony, said weaver Iri Morunga. Adding to the cloak's exotic qualities were feathers from two other birds: the flightless native weka and the pukeko, or swamp hen. But neither are endangered, and the feathers were plucked from birds run over by vehicles.

"They are from roadkill," said Kelly Walker, another weaver who'd worked on the cloak.

Saving the albatross — a bird Charles called the "great ocean traveler" — was high on the prince's agenda when he visited one of their nesting colonies near the southern city of Dunedin on Sunday, squatting next to an albatross rearing a fluffy white chick.

While there, the prince, a staunch conservationist, wondered aloud if it would take a "dodo-like disappearance of this noble winged creature" to awaken people to the threat to the seabirds, which fly vast distances around the world.

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The prince said the birds' survival was threatened by long-line fishing and other poor marine harvesting practices.

Speaking on Wednesday at a civic reception in the northern city of Auckland, the prince won warm applause when he said the albatross was "now a symbol of the way in which we manage, or mismanage, the entire marine environment."

"That bird — all 21 species of the albatross — is now under threat of extinction. If that happens we hardly have the right to call ourselves civilized," he told an audience of more than 300.

A spokesman for the prince said later that no bird had been harmed in making the cloak, and that Charles had returned it to its weavers after wearing it "in a ceremonial way" during the visit.

The spokesman said on condition of anonymity that he was unable to confirm whether the prince knew albatross feathers had been used in making the cloak.

On Wednesday — day four of Charles' five-day visit to New Zealand — well-wishers congratulated him on his impending marriage to Camilla Parker Bowles.

"Come back with Camilla," one woman called out as the prince left a meeting of business supporters. He was scheduled to fly to Fiji late on Thursday

GIVE US A CALL TODAY TO FIND OUT

HOW WE CAN LIGHTEN YOUR LOAD.

Your mailbox will thank you!

Prince Charles is presented with a Maori cloak at a weaving exhibit at the Auckland War Memorial Museum in New Zealand on Wednesday.

Woman, 104, to stay

MELBOURNE, Australia — A 104-year-old Chinese woman will not be deported from Australia despite immigration officials' decision to refuse her a permanent visa, the Australian government announced Wednesday.

Cui Yu Hu arrived in the southern city of Melbourne to visit her family in 1995 on a 12-month tourist visa, but no airline would return her to China because she was too old and frail.

The widow remained in Australia illegally for an aged parent visa that would allow her to stay permanently and receive free health care. But under the rules by which the department decides such applications, Hu is ineligible because she overstayed her initial 12-month visa.

Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone said she overturned the decision and made Hu a permanent resident eligible for free health care and welfare.

Speaking through a translator, Hu said she praised Buddha and Vanstone for the decision, "I wish her a lucky and long life and hope she lives until 100," Hu said. "She has a good heart, she will live very long."

Hong Kong Disneyland

HONG KONG — The Hong Kong Disneyland theme park set to open in September has already booked 10,000 room reservations for its hotel since it opened a customer call center three weeks ago, officials said Wednesday.

"It really took us by surprise, the volume of calls coming in," said Bill Ernest, managing director of operations at Hong Kong Disnevland. Ernest said Hong Kong residents have made most of the 10,000 reservations at the park's 1,000-room hotel, though the park expects that about 40 percent of the visitors will eventually come from mainland China.

The park, scheduled to open Sept. 12 as a joint venture between the Hong Kong government and The Walt Disney Co., is being built on reclaimed land at Penny's Bay on Hong Kong's outlying Lantau island.

Malaysian space food

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia —When the first Malaysian astronaut goes into space they will be able to wear batik and dine on home grown food such as roti canai, shrimp curry and milky tea.

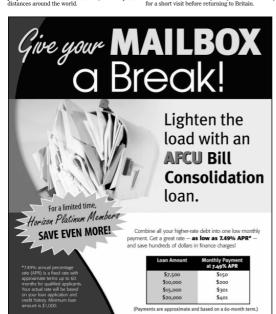
Russia is expected to send Malaysia's first astronaut into space as part of a scientific mission on board the International Space Station. Two Russian scientists will arrive here this month to help select candidates for the program, National Space Agency director-general Mazlan Othman told reporters Tuesday.

Thai police lose rights

BANGKOK, Thailand — Motorists in the Thai capital are having the last laugh: More than 600 police officers have temporarily lost the right to issue tickets after failing a test on traffic law.

The police department last month tested 4,475 officers on their knowledge of traffic law, and almost one in seven failed to show adequate knowledge, said Maj. Gen. Montree Jamroon, a deputy commander of the Metropolitan Police Bureau.

From The Associated Press



Early detection

HONOLULU — Researchers using a sophisticated sensor aboard an aircraft flying at the edge of space were able to spot an invasive tree species starting to take over native forests near the Big Island's Kilauea Volcano. according to a study.

The sensing instru-nent pinpointed ment where Myrica faya trees, originally from the Canary Islands and the Azores, are starting to take over native ohia trees

in and around Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

Previous studies located the Myrica trees, but mostly after they had proliferated, scientists said. The study indicates the remote sensor can spot infestations at their very beginning stages when there is still a chance of controlling them.

Seeking CEO's salary

MA BOSTON — The family of a dog electrocuted when it stepped on an electrical hot spot along a sidewalk has demanded a payment from NStar Electric of \$740,000, the amount the utility's chief executive earns annual. ly, or it will sue, an attorney said.

'We tried to come up with an offer that had some poetry to it, and that would say in very clear terms to NStar: 'We don't want this to keep happening'," said John G. Swomley, the family's lawyer.

Swomley said that after three dog deaths in Boston since 2000 blamed on so-called stray voltage, the family wants a sufficiently harsh financial sanction to force the utility to solve the prob-

NStar, which has taken full re sponsibility for the incident, offered \$200,000, which the family said it turned down

Drop-out rates drop

SAN ANTONIO — More than a third of Texas high school freshmen are failing to obtain a high school diploma in four years, according to a study.

The Intercultural Development Research Association study found that 36 percent of Texas students who entered high school in 2000 weren't around to graduate in May 2004

That rate, known as the attrition rate, decreased slightly from last year's 38 percent. The attrirate was 39 percent in 2001-02 The association's first report, for 1985-86, found a rate of 33 percent. It rose to a high of 43 percent in 1996-97 before leveling off

Minority and male students made up the majority of those who did not graduate on time last

Conviction reinstated

AR LITTLE ROCK — A man freed of a 30-year sentence for rape will have to serve that sentence after all, a federal appeals court says.

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of

Appeals at St. Louis overturned a 2004 ruling by U.S. Magistrate Jerry Cavaneau that threw out of eight felony convictions against Stephen Anthony Sera of Irving, Texas.

Sera was convicted in 1998 of sedating and then sexually as-saulting women while he video-

AMFRICAN ROUNDUP

taned the encounters. Cavaneau ruled that a videotane used as evidence during Sera's trial on the rape charge should not have been used and was prejudicial, be-cause it actually showed an incident from a different night.

Cavaneau's ruling let the seven other counts stand, leaving Sera to serve the next-longest sentence

15 years for attempted rape. The appeals court ruling reinstated the rape conviction and 30-year sentence

Restoring the trails

PA ALLENTOWN — Restoration of overgrown hiking trails, camping outings and nature studies this summer will mark the start of a five-year program of improvements at Lehigh County's Trexler Game Preserve, officials said.
County Executive Jane R.

Ervin, members of the Harry C Trexler Trust and other officials outlined details of this year's work, which will cost an estimated \$24,500.

The county and trust intend to spend \$2.75 million through 2009 on improvements designed to open the 1,100-acre park to great-

er public use.

Bill targets prairie dogs

SD PIERRE — Gov. Mike Rounds has signed a bill giving South Dakota ranchers some extra ammunition in dealing with prairie dogs that invade from neighboring private proper-



Water boy

Chase Barnes, 1, gets wet as he attempts to water flowers and grass around his family's home in Albany, Ore.

measure will conditionally reinstate prairie dogs on a state list of pests and allow for local control methods in certain circumstances. If that is done county weed and pest boards could poison hoards prairie dogs in one-mile buffer zones.

The plan seeks to protect the rights of landowners while balancing the prairie dog population to pre-black-tailed prairie dogs from being listed as an endangered species

Nut growers head south

CHUMUCKLA — Santa Rosa County peanuts have won such a reputation for hardiness across the Southeast that farmers sell much of their harvest as seed. Now, the growers are looking south to Central America for new markets.

County Commissioner Don Salter and members of the county's economic development agency will participate in a four-day Florida trade mission to Panama to promote various products produced in the state.

"The opportunity is there," Salt-er said. "It's well known that Central America continues to open its borders to free trade.'

Prosecuted for piracy

AZ PHOENIX — An Arizona university student is believed to be the first person in the country to be convicted of a crime under state laws for illegally downloading music and movies from the Internet, prosecutors and activists say.

University of Arizona student Parvin Dhaliwal pleaded guilty to possession of counterfeit marks, or unauthorized copies of intellectual property.

Under an agreement with pros ecutors, Dhaliwal was sentenced to a three-month deferred jail sentence, three years of probation, 200 hours of community service and a \$5,400 fine. The judge in the case also ordered him to take a copyright class at the Universi-ty of Arizona, which he attends, and to avoid file-sharing computer programs

Not bad for a dime

MD BALTIMORE — A dime struck in 1894 at the San Francisco mint was auctioned for \$1,322,500 — the most ever paid for a United States dime, experts said

The winning bidder took part in the sale by phone and was not identified.

The coin, described as being in nearly pristine condition, was one of only 24 dimes made that year at the San Francisco mint, whose director had requested them as gifts for visiting bankers.

Recruits skip testing

SC CHARLESTON head of the state Criminal Justice Academy says he's con-cerned South Carolina has dropped a program that gave as-piring police officers a psychological evaluation.

Budget cuts prompted elimination of the tests, which state law doesn't require. Academy director William Neill says not every prospective officer has the maturi ty and mental stability to handle the job.



Mv. what beautiful claws

Spikey, a standard poodle, Labrador

retriever and American pit bull mix, has his nails trimmed by pet groomer Myra Macias in El Paso, Texas. Macias recently won several top prizes including a best in show and best in class at the Groom and Kennel Expo in Burbank, Calif.



A moving moment

South Eighth to make room for a new Walgreens.

Jessie and Alfred Casorena sit in lawn chairs as they watch the home of former Kansas governor Alf Landon be moved off its original lot on West Maple Street in Independence, Kan., to another lot on



Temperatures in the high 50s, snow and short sleeves make an odd It must be March combination but also make for outdoor fun for St. Mary's School fifth graders as they climb, slide and toss snowballs on a snowbank in the school parking lot in Canandaigua, N.Y.



Commercial crabber Allen Heck-Dig those clams ard enjoys a day off from his boat digging for razor clams in Long Beach, Wash. The razor clam season lasts only three days.



Dan Craver of Kalispell, Mont., smiles broadly after finishing a snowshoe race during the Special Olympics Montana 2005 Winter Games at Big Mountain in Whitefish, Mont.



Milo, a rat terrier, checks out the view while being chauffered through Cameron Park in Easy rider Waco, Texas, by his owner Craig Row, who took advantage of the sunny day,

Dorm precautions

WY CHEYENNE — Fire sprinkler systems will be installed at all Wyoming college residence halls. A dormitory fire at Northwest College a year ago was the impetus for the retrofit, authorized under a supplemental budget bill signed into law by Gov. Dave Freudenthal. No one was seriously hurt last March in the blaze which caused \$5.8 million in damage.

Alleged counterfeit

CA SAN JOSE — A federal grand jury has indicted three people for allegedly using counterfeit credit cards to ring up millions of dollars in fraudulent purchases in the United States and Canada between 1998 and 2001

Prosecutors said the suspects stole credit card numbers and used the accounts to make purchases in San Francisco, New York, Philadelphia and Seattle, and the Canadian cities of Calgary and Vancouver between 1998 and 2001

Raids in Oakland, Calif., and Vancouver turned up thousands of phony cards and equipment needed to make them, authorities said.

Something fishy here

AZ TUCSON — A controlled flood meant to aid fish in the Grand Canyon may have had

the opposite effect.

Researchers hoped the 90-hour release of water in November from the Glen Canyon Dam would redistribute sediment to create beaches, plant-rooting soil, and backwaters and pools to beln fish breed.

But scientists studying the effects of the flood announced they found 63 percent fewer of an endangered minnow called a humpback chub than before the flooding. They are not sure why The fish caught after the flood-

ing tended to be somewhat larger than fish examined before the flood, suggesting that the smallest fish declined most significantly, said Lew Coggins, a fisheries biol-

Determined employee

WESTON - Her car made a spectacular crash into an alligator-infested canal and she couldn't swim, but Ana Maria Amaya still got to work on time. Amaya's car clipped another ve-

hicle on Alligator Alley, the highway connecting Fort Lauderdale and Florida's Gulf Coast, and went airborne, police said. She landed in the roadside canal and began sinking as other motorists stopped and called 911.

Although she can't swim Amaya, 32, climbed out and headed to dry ground - after stopping and returning to the car to retrieve her immigration papers in her purse. One witness reported seeing two alligators near the car. Instead of taking the day off. Amaya got a ride a few hours later to the restaurant where she

works, arriving on time. Cheaters never prosper

MA BOSTON — Harvard Business School will reject 119 applicants who hacked

into the school's admission site to see if they had been accepted, the school's dean Kim Clark said.

"This behavior is unethical at best — a serious breach of trust that cannot be countered by ratio-nalization," Clark said.

Systems at about six business schools were hacked into after someone posted instructions on an online message board. Most apnlicants saw only blank screens when they tapped into their files, but some Harvard applicants glimpsed preliminary decisions about whether they would be admitted

Carnegie Mellon's Tepper School of Business has already said it will deny the applications of proven backers.

Prescription for needy

KS TOPEKA — While many states consider reducing benefits or overhauling social programs to save money, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius wants to expand medical services for the needv. Sebelius, a Democrat, has pro-

posed increasing tobacco taxes to finance an expansion of the state's Medicaid program to cover more poor adults, making her an unusual example of a governor who wants to spend more.

Sebelius' goal is Medicaid coverage for adults at the federal noverty level, \$19,350 for a family of four, instead of the current threshold of \$7,160.

Spreading the wealth

ME FREEPORT — About 4.700 L.L. Bean employees will receive bonuses totaling 12.5 percent of their annual base salaries after the company announced record sales of \$1.4 bil-lion for fiscal 2004. An additional 5,600 seasonal workers will get \$150 bonuses. The privately held L.L. Bean said sales increased 9 percent from 2003.

Making music together

MO ST. LOUIS — Musicians from 14 symphony orchestras across the country were set to join St. Louis Symphony musicians for a free concert to thank the community for its support during a recently ended two-month strike. The program will feature more than 80 musicians who will be directed by Benjamin Zander. conductor of the Boston Philhar-

Girl, 5, kicked off bus

TX DALLAS — A school bus driver accused of forcing a 5-year-old girl to get off the bus more than a mile from her scheduled stop was placed on paid administrative leave pending an investigation.

Jadian Anderson said the driver made her daughter, Syria, get off the bus after she complained that another student was hitting her "He did not leave her with anoth.

er adult: he left her on the street. Anderson said, "He was very negligent, and he endangered my child."

Svria walked about a half mile before a crossing guard saw her and noticed she was crying. A relative drove by, saw the girl and picked her up.

Stories and photos from wire services

Owe money? Can't dodge debt collectors

BY IEVA M. AUGSTUMS The Dallas Morning News

If you don't think you've dealt with a debt collector, you may already have.

That letter in the mail saying you owe money for an overdue DVD rental - chances are it's

from a collection agency. And those dinnertime phone calls you ignore may not be telemarketers but creditors in-

If you use credit cards, have loans or pay utility bills, you have debts. And if you fall behind even by a few days in paying those debts or if an error is made on your accounts, debt collectors can contact you by mail and

phone until they hear from you. Yes, it's annoying. And yes, it can be time-consuming. But creditors and consumer advocates agree you can't ignore it.

"The important thing is to communicate," said Harry Strausser III, president of the Association of Credit and Collection Professionals, a Minneapolis-based trade group that represents collection agencies

"Don't avoid the call. Don't avoid the letter. It's in your best interest to find out more about the obligation.

The Federal Trade Commission prohibits professional, third-party collection businesses agents and attorneys from treating you unfairly

The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act also specifically prohibits the use of harassment and false statements by debt collec-

As a consumer, you have rights under the laws But so do debt collectors. They know their rights, so

it's good for you to know yours So you've been contacted by a debt collector. Now what? First, don't panic. It means someone values your business.

Second, don't get angry. The Federal Trade Commission restricts the actions of anyone trying to collect money you owe

The laws cover personal, fami-ly and household debts, including money owed for automobiles, medical expenses and credit-card charges.

In most cases, a debt collector's first contact is made through the

However, if you first receive a phone call, the debt collector must send you written notification within five working days detailing the amount of debt; the name of the creditor who referred the debt to the collector: and what action to take if you believe you do not owe the money.

Leaving a message on your an-wering machine doesn't count The debt collector must speak with the debtor. In some states a debtor's spouse qualifies.

When debt collectors make the first contact, whether by phone or mail, they are obliged to identify themselves, tell you they are attempting to collect a debt and explain that any information they ob-tain will be used for that purpose.

It's usually in your best interest to talk to them. However, if you feel that you have been wrongfully contacted or if your debt is more



The Dallas Morning News

complicated than just an overdue DVD, you don't have to settle the debt in that initial phone call.

"Be careful. Don't give them all your information right away. You have some time," said Bud Hibbs, a financial counselor and consultant in Fort Worth, Texas. "The biggest mistake that customers make is giving access to their money."

If you don't agree with the col-

lector, you have 30 days to disnute - in writing — all or part of the debt

The debt collector must obtain proof of the debt and stop all collection efforts until the verification is mailed to you.

"It's good to have a paper trail." Hibbs said. "That way you have proof if you need to dispute or report a violation.

You also have the option to request that the collector cease communication with you. At that time, the debt collector may then contact you only once more to advise you if

further action including legal action — will be taken.

Be careful. That request could be more costly than the debt itself, especially if you have to take on attorney and court fees.

And also be aware that if a court enters a judgment against you, the creditor may repossess your property or garnishee your

And what if you file personal bankruptcy? The debt collectors won't contact you anymore. Instead, they'll deal with your lawver and the bankruptcy court.

Just because you've chosen to avoid the debt collector doesn't mean action isn't being taken

For starters, you are still liable for any legitimate debt you owe.

And by the time a debt collector makes contact with you, in many cases your debt has already been reported to the credit bureaus. It can remain on your credit report for seven years from the date of the delinquency on your account

Debt collectors can call you at home between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. They can even call you at work unless you inform them your employer prohibits it.

Debt collectors say they are

used to getting hung up on.

"That doesn't mean we are going to go away," said Joyce Anderton, a partner at ACH Financial Group, a Kansas-based collections agency

When calling, debt collectors cannot misrepresent their identity, and they must use businesslike language. They also cannot make repetitive or excessively frequent phone calls to annoy or

What they can do is contact peo-ple who aren't directly involved in your debt to get information on where you live and work — as long as they don't talk about the debt.

But they can only contact each person once, unless they believe the person gave incomplete information.

More often than not, consumers think debt collectors are out to get them, Anderton said.

"I think they think we are going to say 'pay it,' no matter what," she said. "We just want to talk to you, find out why you have the debt and help you figure out how to pay it back

TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES									
52- High	week Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	Chg 9		52-wk % Chg		
10,984.46 3,880.93	9,708.40 2,743.46	Dow Jones Industrials Dow Jones Transportation	10,912.62 3,872.17	-24.24 -3.96	22 10	+1.20	+4.36		
363.82 7,455.08	259.08 6,211.33	Dow Jones Utilities NYSE Composite	360.80 7,426.17	-2.47 -14.14	68 19	+7.72 +2.43	+28.91 +10.87		
1,539.14 2,191.60	1,150.74 1,750.82	Amex Index Nasdaq Composite	1,529.90 2,073.55	+3.74	+.25	+6.66	+21.47		
1,229.11 683.36	1,060.72 548.29	S&P 500 S&P MidCap	1,219.43 677.04	-5.88 -5.38	48 79	+.62	+6.91 +11.86		
656.11 12,108.93	515.90 10,268.52	Russell 2000 DJ Wilshire 5000	637.98 12,008.37	-5.88 -65.26	91 54	-2.09 +.31	+8.88 +7.72		
NYSE AMEX NASDAQ									
	MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)								

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS							
Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD WChg		
Alliant Technosystem	***	18	73.93	+,89	+13.1		
Armor Holdings		17	41.52	+.09	-11.7		
Boeing	1.00	25	58.15	15	+12.3		
Computer Sciences		15	45.15	-1.50	-19.9		
Engineered Sup Sys	.07	20	56.47	69	-4.6		
General Dynamics	1.60	18	108.93	+2.28	+4.1		
General Electric	.88	23	36.06	07	-1.2		
Halliburton	.50	-	43.42	35	+10.7		
Harris Corp.	.48	29	67.69	-1.70	+9.5		
Allied Signal	.83			02	+9.3		
L-3 Communications	.50	22	76.61	+1.53	+4.6		
Lockheed Martin	1.00	21	60.43	+.67	+8.8		
NorthrpG s	.92	18	54.95	+.89	+1.1		
Raytheon	.80	42	39.00	+.02	+.4		
Rockwell Intl.	.66	24	61.13	76	+23,4		
Segua Corp.		33	55.10	-2.35	-9.9		
Texas Instruments	.10	25	26.34	-1.03	+7.0		
Textron Inc.	1.40	31	79.52	53	+7.8		
United Technologies	1.76	19	102.26	+.96	-1.1		

-.08 -.42 -.26 +.10

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS Chg. Fidelity Invest: Grotni Fidelity Invest: GroCo 38.29 54.03 -.14 29.00 43.27 19.75 Fidelity Spartan: Eqidx Putnam Funds A: GrinA o Fidelity Invest: Ovrsea Fidelity Invest: Ovrsea Fidelity Advisor T: GrOppT Fidelity Advisor T: EginT

-.38 -.31 -.00 +.04 -.11 +.02 -.33 -2.22

-.47 -.65 -.05 -.17 -1.22

-.05 -.05 +.01 -.75

30.15 127.15 44.56 10.91 6.45 98.54

+.2 -.05 -.28 -.14 -.03 +.04 -.18 -.12 -.10 -.01 -.04 -.08 +24 +2.4 +1.1 +2.7 +2.3 Putnam Funds A: GlbEqty p AIM Investments A: ChartA Merrill Lynch I: BalCapl Scienter Funds S: Intl FdS Fidelity Advisor T: OvrseaT Lord Abbett A: DevGtA p 18.23 15.61 12.95

EXCHANGE RATES

Euro costs	\$1.3731
Dollar buys	€0.7283
British pound	\$1.97
Japanese ven (March 11)	102.00
South Korean won (March 10)	977.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
Canada (Dollar)	1.2070
Denmark (Krone)	5.26
Fovnt (Pound)	5.79
Euro	2/0.7483
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7996
Hungary (Forint)	180.37
Iceland (Krona)	58.08
Israel (Shekel)	4.2974
Japan (Yen)	103.95
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2920
Norway (Krone)	5.80
Philippines (Peso)	54.62
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.58
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6218
South Korea (Won)	
Switzerland (Franc)	1.10
Thailand (Baht)	38.31
Turkey (New Lira)	1.255
(Military exchange rates ar	e those
available to customers at milita	ry bank-
ing facilities in the country of i	ssuance
for Japan, South Korea, Germa	any, the
Netherlands and the United K	
For nonlocal currency exchange	ge rates

PRECIOUS METALS

(i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germa-ny), check with your local military bank-ing facility. Commercial rates are inter-bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	.5
Discount rate	3.
Federal funds market rate	2.
3-month bill	2.
30-year bond	4.
Sources: The Associated Press, Ba	nĸ

To our readers

Tom Philpott's column will return to Your Money on Thursday.

ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Cracking passwords

Our computer-based world is now a maze of passwords, designed to protect our sensitive data from thieves and snoops. We mix and match birth dates. mothers' maiden names friends, ages, addresses and nicknames in a jumble of codes for our electronic selves.

But are we safe? The folks at Fiberlink Communications Corp., a Blue Bell, Pa.-based maker of software and other high-tech products, conducted a recent password-cracking experiment. With an eight-character password on a standard 95-character keyboard, there are quite a few

combinations 6,634,204,312,890,625 to be exact, according to Fiberlink.

possible

The company then tested a standard computer's calculative prowess against our common habit of using simple words as passcodes to protected electronic areas

So, for the example, using the word "password" as the password, a standard desktop computer took less than a second to determine this, when assembling all the different letter combinations. Adding the single digit 1 to the password required seconds. Typing "password" with an asterisk in the middle took the computer 38 seconds to decipher.

And the combination that was not cracked, after the machine was left to compute for more than 10 minutes? "p@\$\$w0rd"

Strines | rave

Daudet's Mill, on the outskirts of Fontvielle, France, is named after French author Alphonse Daudet, who never lived in the mill, but used it for the inspiration for his "Lettres de mon Moulin ("Letters from My Mill"), a series of letters and tales from Provence



Peak points

France's Alpilles offer best of Provence

BY MICHAEL ABRAMS Stars and Stripes

om afar, the barrer limestone peaks look like a lofty mountain range

Rising from the plains, they could be mistaken for their big brothers, the Alps. Even their name sounds similar. But at their highest, around 1,600 feet, the Alpilles are a far cry from the soaring giants to the east.

But they still offer dramatic vistas, winding roads, caves and mountaintop towns.

As dramatic as these jagged peaks are, it is at the foot of the hills and in their valleys where the heart and soul of the Alpilles lie: in the vineyards, olive groves and fruit orchards

It is a land of poets and painters, a countryside dotted with thick-walled Provencal farmhouses, known as mas, and medieval villages.

The town of St. Rémy, with its Gallo-Roman ruins, is the gate way to the Alpilles, and the hilltop village of Les Baux is its crown. Only about 15 miles long, much of the Alpilles can be seen in little more than a day, but there is a feeling here — a joie de vivre — that makes one want to while away the days in its

St. Rémy makes a good base for exploring the region, but even if you are staying in Arles Nîmes or in the Luberon, there is a nice circular route that will take you to the sights of the



Beginning at St. Rémy, head east on D99 toward Cavaillon, then south on D74A toward Eygalières. On the road, you pass the Mas de la Brune, a country residence that is now a hotel Here you will find Le Jardin de l'Alchimiste, or the alchemist's garden, a landscaped garden containing many plants of the Mediterranean region and the Alpilles. (The garden is open May to October on weekends and holidays)

Farther on, the medieval town of Eygalières crawls up a hillside to its castle. Not far from here, to the east, the 12th-century Chapelle St.-Sixte stands on the site of an earlier pagan temple.

Head back through Evgalières. and take D24 south to Le Destet, and then drive west toward Maussane-les-Alpilles. Here the road passes through olive groves and fruit orchards

In Maussane-les-Alpilles, a

typical Provençal village lined with cafes and restaurants, you will find a Santon museum. Santons are figurines once used for Nativity scenes and at first limited to biblical figures. Now there are Santons from all walks of Provencal life - farmers, shen herds, market women, boule players and even Vincent van Gogh. They come in all sizes and can be very detailed and expensive, but are unique souvenirs of Provence.

Next head north on D5 toward Les Baux, crowning the hill in

the distance. If you have only one day for the Alpilles. now is the time to visit the ancient town. Even if you decide to



Provence, and vintners welcome guests to try (and buy) their wines. A wine cellar in French is a "cave," and one vintner has his cave in an actual cave (a former quarry) in a hill in the Val d'Enfer across from Les Baux. the area

Not only does Les Baux have its own appellation for wine, it also has one for olive oil made in

toward the

look for

leave it for another day, follow

D27 toward Les Baux through

the vinevards. The area has its

own appellation, Baux-de-

After Les Baux, follow D78



village of Paradou. where the Provençal poet Charloun Rieu is buried Heading toward Arles and Fontvielle. signs to "aqueduc romain." The remains of the Roman aqueducts are down a footpath, a short hike from the sign.

When D78 crosses D33, take a right toward Fontvielle. Before ou get to town you will see the Moulin de Daudet, Daudet's Mill, on the outskirts. It is named after French author Alphonse Daudet. who never actually lived in the mill, but used it as the inspiration for his "Lettres de mon Moulin" ("Letters from My Mill") a series of letters and tales from Provence.

Farther up D33, surrounded by olive and pine trees, is the Chapelle St. Gabriel, a 12th-century chapel with a fine adorned facade. From here,take D32 back to St. Rémy.

One tip: Before starting the journey, stock up on local cheese, sausages, French bread and something to drink, and enjoy a Provençal picnic along the way.

E-mail Michael Abrams at: abramsm@mail.estripes.osd.mil.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL AF

Above: The craggy Alpilles tower over Glanum, the archaeological site

A town an artist could love

Van Gogh painted more than 100 works in St. Rémy

BY MICHAEL ABRAMS Stars and Strings

t. Rémy is the picture-perfect base for touring western Provence. It is a charming, laid-back town that is the birthplace of astrologer Nostradamus and where, in a creative flurry of genius, Vincent van Gogh painted more than 100 works.

On the edge of the Alpilles, St. Rémy is a short drive through the hills to the case-the-topped village of Lee Baux, only 15 miles to Actes and just 11 to Avignos. St. Rémy is also only 25 miles from the Medi terranean at Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer and 56 miles from Marseilles. And the mountain villages of Gordes, Bonnieux and Ménerbes in the Luberon are only a day trin away.

But there are plenty of reasons to visit St. Rémy in itself: the Wednesday market, the shaded boulevards, lively cafes and the antiquities of Glanum.

On the southern outskirts of town, Glanum dates to the sixth century B.C. when it was founded by Celtic-Ligurian people known as the Glanics. After coming into contact with Greeks from Massalia (today's Marseille), a Hellenistic community arose here with a temple and agora in the second and third century B.C.

After the Roman conquest of the area, public buildings — basilica, temples, forums and baths — were erected under Augustus. The site was abandoned after the barbarian invasions at the end of the third century, and only the triumphal arch and the 60-foot-ligh mausoleum at the entrance to Glanum was visible until

excavations of the site began in 1921. St. Rémy was not founded until after the fall of Glanum. Its medieval center was once surrounded by fortifications. Today, a ring road lined with plane trees runs where the fortifications once stood. The town's center is still a maze of narrow alleyways, barely wide enough for cars to slip through.

Inside the maze, fountains splash on cobblestone squares and lazy cats watch from ancient walls as tourists try to find their way through, searching for Nostradamus' birthplace or the archaeological museum in the Hôtel de Sade. Note that the street signs are often in two languages: French and Provençal.

Just outside the maze, tourists and



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

A mundane chore, such as carrying home groceries, becomes a beautiful scene in the narrow lanes of St.-Rémy-de-Provence.

locals alike enjoy coffee or an aperitif at one of the cafes across from the Place de la Republic.

It is here, on Place Pélissier and on the lanes in between where the famous Provençal market takes place on Wednesday mornings. Fruits, vegetables, cheeses. sausages, fishes, seeds, breads, fabrics, old of course, herbes de Provence – savory, thyme, bay, basil, sage, rosemary, wild thyme, fennel, marjo ram and tarragom – can all be bought here. While the market draws tourists,



Provençal specialties on sale at the Wednesday morning market in St. Rémy.



The cloister of St.-Paul-de-Mausole monas tery in St. Rémy. A sanatorium since the mid-18th century, artist Vincent van Gogh was once confined here.

much of the buying is done by the locals. While walking around town, watch for small plaques with paintings on them. These mark places that van Gogh painted. Many of them look the same 115 years

After arriving from Arles, the artist was voluntarily confined to the convalescent home at the St. Paul-de-Mausole monastery, near Glanum, from May 1889 to May 1890. St. Rémy and its surroundings inspired him to paint self-portraits, nature, people working in the fields and the stunningly beautiful "Starry Nightt."



Cafe life thrives in picture-perfect St. Rémy.



Tourists and locals alike enjoy the famous Provençal market on Wednesday mornings, where vendors sell everything from olive oil and "herbes de Provence" to soaps and fabrics.

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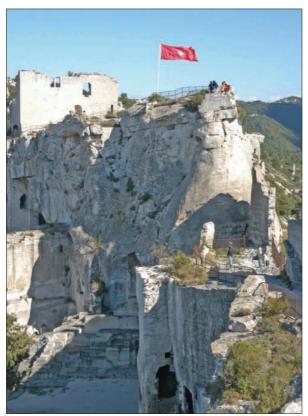
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PAGE 24



A view of Les Baux citadel from its Saracen Tower. Parts of the castle date to the 12th century, but the area has been occupied since the second century B.C.







This model of a catapult stands on the plateau of the Les Baux of century Chapelle St-Blaise, at center is the citadel, and at far rig

From lo

Ancient town draws m

BY MICHAEL ABRAMS Stars and Stripes

igh upon an Alpilles crest sits the village of Les Baux and its towering castle.

With a commanding view of the countryside, the powerful lords of Baux once ruled the surrounding villages and towns. They were a warrior lot, even taking on the House of Barcelona for the right to rule Provence. Members of the line became counts and dukes, others married into powerful families. Still others used different means to gain power and wealth.

Among the final group was Viscount Raymond de Turenne, nicknamed the "Scourge of Provence." From the castle, the brigand terrorized the countryside and its residents, until mercenaries of the pope and soldiers of the king of France forced him to flee in 1399.

Through the years, the town prospered, but the castle and its ramparts were dismantled in 1632, leaving ruins.

Today, another invader has brought new prosperity to the hilling town. Hordes of tourists take over Les Baux, strolling its cobblestone lanes, stopping at its shops for Provencyal souvenirs and climbing its castle walls for a glorious view of the Alpilles, the fertile valleys below and the shimmering Mediterranean Sea way, way off in the distance.

Despite the crowds, Les Baux is worth the visit, especially if you avoid the peak summer tourist season. Surprisingly, for a tourist season. Surprisingly, for a tourist trap. The souvenirs — colorful tablecloths, Santon dolls, yellow pottery and bouquets of lavender — are no pricier here than they are in St. Rémy or Arles. Only the entrance fee to the castle at 7 euros for adults and 3.50 euros for children seems steep.

To see Les Baux is to stroll past ancient churches, stately mansions and common houses, all made of pale stone. The 12th-century St. Vincent church and the 17th-century Chapelle des Pénitents Blanc face each other on the Place St. Vincent. From here there is a good view of the jagged, cave-filled Val d'Enfer, or Hell Valley.

The Hôtel de Manville is a beautiful 16th-century mansion donated to the town by the prince of Manville. Nearby are the

A view of the

anciens four townspeople

The Musé Trencat is the grounds. He castle looked ries.

On its gro the ruins of life-size mod rams, like th the castle ar chapel. The 16th-century the early 20 caves carved and the cital

After seei ing of the ca uneven step spectacular once had.

E-mail Michael estripes.osd.m RIPES · MARCH 10, 2005 PAGE 25



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

itadel. A similar one was once used in medieval times to attack the castle. At left is the 12thint another catapult.

rds to hordes

ore than a million tourists per year



village of Les Baux and the surrounding countryside from its castle ruins

s oanaux, the ovens where the once baked their bread. e d'Historie de Baux on Rue du e entrance to the castle re are two models of how the in the 13th and 16th centu-

inds are the town's cemetery, he communal mill, and els of catapults and battering e one once used to lay siege to dithe 12th-century St. Blaise ruins next door are of a hospital. From the Iron Age to h century, people lived in the lout of the rock between here el

ng the keep and the rib vaultstle chapel, climb up the rough, to the Saracen tower for the view that the lords of Baux



A variety of "santons" from Provence on sale at a shop in Les Baux. These figurines were one used for Nativity scenes and were at first limited to biblical figures. Now there are santons from all walks of Provençal life — and you can even buy them catter.



Visitors wander the narrow, cobblestone lanes of Les Baux. The village is popular with tourists year round, but is especially jammed in the summer.



A basket of lavender, typical of Provence, sits outside a shop in Les Baux.

Volksmarch

popular event each year in the Kaiserslautern. Germany, area is the one in Queidersbach. A Weizenbier glass is the prize in 2005 for completing the 5K, 10K or 20K marches.

If the snow keeps falling as it has been lately, make sure you dress warmly

Jennifer West



and in layers and wear boots for traction or these trails as Queidersbach is at a bit higher elevation than K-Town. Get those single

servicemem. bers out of the dorms and on

their first volksmarch — but make sure they're dressed prop erly!

Notes about this week's volksmarch events:

· Walkers 16 years old and younger will receive free tea and one free alcohol-free drink at the Hermesdorf, Germany, volksmarch. The 6K is stroller and wheelchair friendly. This is a close walk for the folks stationed in the Eifel region (Bitburg and Spangdahlem) as it's near Stau-

· My thanks to our fellow walkers for sending in brochures, all in date order! Here's the list: Tim Lynch, Bob and Lorraine Huffaker, Nancy Shawley, Ute Allinger and Bob Gambert, Ramona and Horst Kechelen, H. Wayne Henry and Ron Conlon.

. No time for each day's start-hall entertainment was listed for this weekend's München-Hasenbergl, Germany, event

· A 38-by-28-by-7-centimeter document case or bag is the medal at Ansbach, Germany This walk starts at the Autohaus Oppel in Ansbach-Elpersdorf.

· Beginning at 11 a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday in Simmern, Germany, folks can participate in an historical city walk (no distance listed). This year the Hunsrückhalle is the start loca-tion for the 5-, 10- and 20-kilometer courses. A children's rucksack with a teddy bear design is the medal

. The Gulpen, Netherlands, Wednesday walk series opens next week. Here are all the series' dates: April 20, May 18, June 15, July 27, Aug. 17, Sept. 21 and Oct. 19. The distances, start times and start location are the same for every midweek walk and they are: 5K, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and 10K and 15K, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event starts in the Café Paddock on Dorpsstraat 13. Gulpen. There is no prize

· Notes from Clark Soeldner, our Italian walking expert: "The Pieve di Cento event begins at the G.P.I. Cagnon on

via Garibaldi 34. As well as the normal walks, there is a competitive 21K run. There are awards based on finishing placement. For more information, check out the Web site at www.pieve.net.

Listings come from brochures of IVV-sanctioned events that were either collected at volksmarches or mailed to Jennifer West by clubs wishing to promote their nts. Locations are noted in the host language. More extensive lists are available in the IVV or DVV-IVV Terminliste, www.dvv

	Country/Town	Day(s) and Time(s)	Code	Km.	Starting Point	Award	Directional Reference
	Austria						
	Weiten	Sat & Sun 0700-1200	F	11	Gast. Zur Post	Flashlight	NW of St. Pölten
	Denmark						
У	Hjarup	Sun 0800-1100	-	5 & 10	Spejdercenter	No award	SW of Kolding
3,	Hjarup	Sun 0800-1000		15 & 20	Spejdercenter	No award	SW of Kolding
	Silkeborg	Sun 0900-1100	-	5 & 12	Resenbro Skole	No award	Skellerupvej 20
	Silkeborg Veile	Sun 0900-1000 Sat 1330		18 5 & 10	Resenbro Skole Rosportens Klubhus	No award No award	Skellerupvej 20 NW of Fredericia
		381 1330		3 & 10	nosporteris Riabilas	IVO awaiu	IVVV OI I Tedericia
	France		F				
	Reichstett Sarre-Union	Sat & Sun 0700-1400 Sat & Sun 0700-1400	F	10 & 20 10 & 20	Salle des Fêtes Salle de la Corderie	No award No award	NE of Strasbourg S of Sarreguemines
	Schlierbach	Sat & Sun 0700-1400	F	10 & 20	Salle des Fêtes	No award	SE of Mulhouse
	Cormony						
	Germany	0.00	_				ED11 0111 / 1 1 1
	Ansbach-Elpersdorf Dorsten-Holsterhausen	Sat & Sun 0700-1300 Sat & Sun 0700-1200	F CDENY	5, 10, 20 6 & 10	Autohaus Oppel Sporthalle	Document holder Drinker figurine	FRM, SW of Ansbach NRW, N of Essen
	Dorsten-Holsterhausen	Sat & Sun 0700-1200 Sat & Sun 0700-1200	CDFN	0 & IU	Sportnalle	Drinker ligurine	INFINE, IN OI ESSEII
			21 & 30	Sporthalle	Beer drinker figurine	NRW, N of Essen	
	Dorsten-Holsterhausen Dorsten-Holsterhausen	Sat 0700-0900 Sat 0630-0700	M M	42 50	Sporthalle Sporthalle	Patch & certificate	NRW, N of Essen NRW N of Essen
	Fellbach-Schmiden	Sat 0630-0700 Sun 0700-1300	M BF	6, 10, 20	Sportnalle Festhalle	B-medal	BWN, NE of Stuttgart
	Girkenroth	Sat 0700-1400, Sun 0700-1300	BFN3.6	5 & 10	Dorfgemeinschaftshaus	B-medal	RP, N of Limburg
	Girkenroth	Sat & Sun 0700-1300	BFN3.6	20	Dorfgemeinschaftshaus	B-medal	RP, N of Limburg
	Hermesdorf Hermesdorf	Sat 0700-1500, Sun 0700-1400 Sat 0700-1500, Sun 0700-1400	DFSWY	6	Turnhalle Turnhalle	No award No award	RP, NW of Bitburg RP, NW of Bitburg
	Hermesdorf	Sat & Sun 0700-1300	DF	20	Turnhalle	No award	RP, NW of Bitburg
1	Kasendorf	Sat 1000-1500, Sun 0700-1200	FY	5, 10, 15	Gemeindebauhof	Model semi truck	FRO, SW of Kulmbach
1	Lauterach	Sat & Sun 0700-1330	F	6 & 10	Lautertalhalle	Shoe flower pot	BWS, SW of Ulm
-	München-Hasenbergl Queidersbach/Pfalz	Sat & Sun 0700-1200 Sat 0700-1400, Sun 0700-1300	BCFPX FNY	7, 12, 20 5 & 10	Mathäser Mehrzweckhalle	B-medal Weizenbierglas	MOB, N of München RP. SW of Kaiserslautern
	Queidersbach/Pfalz	Sat & Sun 0700-1300	FN	20	Mehrzweckhalle	Weizenbierglas	RP SW of Kaiserslautern
	Schlüsselfeld	Sat & Sun 0700-1200	F	6, 10, 20	Stadthalle	Shoe flower pot	FRO, SW of Bamberg
ı	Simmern	Sat 0700-1500, Sun 0700-1300	FY	5 & 10	Hunsrückhalle	Child's rucksack	RP, W of Bingen
	Simmern Simmern	Sat 0700-1400, Sun 0700-1300 Sat & Sun 1100 (Hist, City walk)	F F	20	Hunsrückhalle Hunsrückhalle	Child's rucksack Child's rucksack	RP, W of Bingen RP. W of Bingen
	Zell-Weierbach	Sat 1000-1500, Sun 0700-1300	FPS	5 & 10	Abtsberghalle	Make-up/Manicure kit	BWS, E of Offenburg
	Italy						
	Gonars	Sun 0900-1000	FX	6, 12, 21	Next to school park	No award	W of Palmanova
	Meduno	Sun 0830-1000	F	6, 12, 24	Central Sports Complex	T-shirt	NE of Aviano AB
	Monselice	Sun 0830	F	7, 13, 19	Piazza Mazzini	No award	SW of Padova
	Pieve di Cento Pieve di Cento	Sun 0840-0850 Sun 0840-0850	F	3 & 7 12 & 21	See misc. notes	No award	N of Bologna
		Sun 0840-0850	F	12 & 21	See misc. notes	No award	N of Bologna
	Luxembourg						
	Mertert	Sun 0700-1400	F	5 & 11	Centre Culturel	No award	SW of Trier, GE
	Netherlands						
	Gulpen	Wed 0900-1500		5	Café Paddock	No award	SW of Heerlen
	Gulpen	Wed 0900-1400	-	10 & 15	Café Paddock	No award	SW of Heerlen
,	Neer Neer	Sun 0700-1400 Sun 0700-1400	W	7 5. 10. 15	Locatie Jong Nederland Locatie Jong Nederland	Sticker Sticker	SW of Venlo SW of Venlo
	Neer	Sun 0700-1200		20	Locatie Jong Nederland	Sticker	SW of Venio
	Neer	Sun 0700-1000	-	30	Locatie Jong Nederland	Sticker	SW of Venlo
	Neer Schinnen	Sun 0700-1000 Sun 0700-1400	M	42 5 & 10	Locatie Jong Nederland Jeughuis De Schepenbank	Sticker	SW of Venlo W of Brunssum
	Schinnen	Sun 0700-1400 Sun 0700-1200		25	Jeughuis De Schepenbank	Sticker	W of Brunssum
	Schinnen	Sun 0700-1000		35	Jeughuis De Schepenbank	Sticker	W of Brunssum
	Schinnen	Sun 0700-0900	М	50	Jeughuis De Schepenbank	Sticker	W of Brunssum
	Switzerland						
0	Kreuzlingen	Sat & Sun 0800-1300	-	5 & 10	Schulhaus Bernegg	Cow glass	NW of St. Gallen
_	United Kingd	om			- 55	-	
					T		
-	Goldthorpe Langsett	Sun 0930 Sun 1030	1	5 & 15 5 & 10	The Unit Club Barn Car Park	No award Souvenir	N of Rotherham SW of Barnsley
	Winteringham	Sun 0900-1130	-	10 & 20	Bay Horse	No award	SW of Hull
	-				•		

GENERAL CODES

- B Awards from past events available (B-medals) C Bring a cup for free refreshments at the control
- points
- D Shower/Wash facilities at start ha. F Free refreshment at control points
- M Marathon or long-distance event N - Nordic walking even P - Music at start hall
 - S Stroller-friendly trails s Shorter trail noted as stroller-friendly

GERMAN STATE/REGION CODES

- SHH Schleswig-Holstein/ Hamburg SAR - Saarland BWN - Baden-Württemberg Nord BWS - Baden-Württemberg Süd NDS - Niedersachsen/Berlin
- NRW Nordrhein-Westfalen RP Rheinland-Pfalz THS - Thüringen/Sachsen FRO - Oberfranken (Upper Franken) HE - Hessen
 - going over the summit the past
- T Evening/Night walk, carry a flashlight X Award available while supply lasts W Course for wheelchair participants Y Young-Walkers'-Tour or Bambini-Liga event
- 3.6 3.60 euros for start card & B-meda
- SCH Schwaben
- OPF Oberpfalz NDB Niederbayern MOB München-Oberbayern

"The Monselice course is a combination of flats and hills. Although it does not pass by the castle, it would be worth a visit

after the walk. "Meduno is a very popular mountain walk. If it doesn't snow, the 24K route has a gain of about 680 meters in the early part while the 12K has a gain of about 380 meters. I've seen sun, snow and pea soup fog while

five times: I wonder what this year has in store? "There is a restoro at the rejoins the 12K ... Manga,

ninth in the series. Forchia Piccola where the 24K

manga! The T-shirt prize is the E-mail Jennifer West at volksmarch@mail. estripes.osd.mil. Write her at: Volksmarch Column, Stars and Stripes, Bldg. 2899, Pulaski Barracks, APO AE 09227-3717

COMPILED BY KAREN BRADBURY Stars and Stripes

Here are immediately upcoming ski club events. For later events. contact the club. Also, you might want to contact your base Outdoor Recreation office for its ski trips

FRANKFURT INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB: Phone: 069-9720-3669: trips: March 18-20. Klosters. Switzerland, 255 euros; March 24-28, St. Moritz, Switzerland, 340 euros; March 26-April 2, Val Thorens, France, 485 euros

GRAFENWÖHR SKI AND SNOW-

Ski Clubs

ROARDING CLUR! Phone: DSN 476-1560, CIV 0964-1831560; trips: March 18-20, Zell am See, Austria

price TBA HEIDELBERG INTERNATIONAL SKI CI LIR: Phone CIV 06202-577-8422 or DSN 370-5352; trips: March 18-20. Dayos/ Klosters Switzerland, 245 euros; March 19-26, Tignes, France, 765 euros; April 1-3, Engelberg, Switzerland, 285 euros.

KAISERSLAUTERN SKI CLUB: Phone: 06303-4751; trips: March 18-20 Lenzerheide Switzerland 210 euros: April 1-3. Verbier Switzerland, 150 euros; April

22-24 Lech Austria 215 euros LABER SKI CLUB: Phone: CIV 08822 9481 3100. DSN 440-2366: trips: March 12. Ischol. Austria: March 19-20, Passo Pordoi, Italy; April 2, Zugspitz, Germany.

MANNHFIM INTERNATIONAL

Phone: 06301-3478; trips: April 1-3, Engelberg, Switzerland, 200 euros: April 8-10. St. Anton. Austria, 165 euros; April 29-May 1,

Ischgl, Austria, 205 euros WESTPFALZ INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB: Phone: 06371-598537 trips: April 8-10, Lech, Austria, 220 uros; April 29- May 1, Ischgl,

WÜRZBURG INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB: Phone: 0932 19244525; trips: March 14-20, St. Moritz, Switzerland, 400 euros: April 29-May 1, Ischgl, Austria, 230 euros; May 13-15, Landec y 13-15, Landeck,





Alpine snow conditions as of M ON Good

Mayrhofen, AUS Neustift, AUS Pitztel, AUS St. Anton, AUS Charmonix, FF misch GER Feldberg, GER Cortina, IT Passo Tonale, IT Engelberg, SV

Good Good Good Good Good

General Inform *All measurements are in centime Good sking on well groomed pistes

Today's tresh powder means tresh tracks We have plenty of powder! A dusting of snow has improving Great skiing due to new snow Great skiing due to new snow Great snow conditions due to new Good skiing on well groomed piste loy in places, otherwise ok Powder day! 20 cm of fresh snow. Plenty of good snow at altitude Very good piste conditions, best at to:

Check out our winter produ www.netsechool.nets.int followills: Recreation Cor.

SKI CLUB: Phone: 06206-75268; trips: March 18-20. Verbie Switzerland, 140 euros: April 9-16 Merihel France (STRA) PATCH SKI CLUB: Stuttgart Phone: DSN 430-5789; trips: March 17-20, Chamonix, France, 390 euros: April 7-10. St. Moritz. Switzerland, April 7-10, April 9-16, Val Thorens, France, 320 euros; April 29-May 1, Ischgl, Austria, 220 euros; May 27-30, Lermoos, Austria, 200 euros; May 27-30, Sieni Golf I-St Veit Austria 260 TANNENBAUM SKI CLUB:

Austria, 215 euros Austria, price TBA; May 28-31, St. Veit. Austria, price TBA.









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Calendar

COMPILED BY JAYNE TRAENDLY

Special to Stars and Stripes

Listings are based on the latest information available at press time but are subject to change. It's wise to check with the local tourist board to confirm details of the event hefore traveling.

AUSTRIA

www.austria-info.at VIENNA: Johann Strauss ball, March 19 INNERKREMS: Dog sled races. Europe championship, March

VIENNA: Easter market, March 12-23. Castle Schönbrunn HALL: Easter festival, March 14. 19, 24-25

VIENNA: OsterKlang Festival, March 18 - 28.

SALZBURG: Easter festival, March 19.28

BELGIUM

www.visitbelgium.com THROUGHOUT the country: Anniversary of 175 years of independence, through 2005 BRUSSELS, WALLONIA: Beer 2005, through 2005 BRUSSELS: Festival of fantastic film, March 11-26. BRUSSELS: Mini-Europe open.

March 19-Jan. 9 THROUGHOUT the count Flanders festival, March 22-Oct. 23

TOURNAI: Grand flower market, March 25

CINEY: Flea market and antique fair, March 25-28 HERVE: Cavalcade, March 28

GHENT: Floralies, April 15-24

CZECH REPUBLIC www.visitczechia.cz

PRAGUE: Easter markets. March 18-April 8. Old Town and Wenceslas Squares PRAGUE: Accordion festival, April

ENGLAND

MSC Melody: May 23 - 30, 200

MSC Lirica:

MSC Opera:

www.visitbritain.com RIRMINGHAM: Crufts dog show. through March 13. NEC LONDON: Classicalive, March

Best Bets for the week

By JAYNE TRAENDLY Special to Stars and Stripes

BELGIUM: If you love horror and science fiction. Brussels' Festival of Fantastic Film may be the place for you through March 26. Some of the highlights on the program are a tribute and retrospective of films adapted from or inspired by the works of French writer Jules Verne: the world premiere of Paul Schrader's "Exorcist: The Original Prequel"; and a regrouping of some of the best of Japanese animated series in the past years, together with a two-day market for DVDs, mangas, actions figures and games. Other events scheduled are

the Vampire Ball, Unusual Fashion Show (theme: "Beauty and Horror"), body painting contest and of course, the film screenings, lectures from film experts and competitions.

Tickets range from three euros to 22 euros, depending on the event. For more information, 18-23 Classical music and instru

ENGLAND: The annual Crufts International Dog Show runs through the weekend at the NEC in Birmingham. More than 400 stands will show the latest in doggie items at this gathering that includes both pedigreed dogs and mongrels in displays and competitions. Today's category focuses on terriers and hounds. Friday showcases toy and utility dogs; Saturday, gundogs; and Sunday,

Also on the program are demonstrations of dog agility. flyball and heelwork to music and presentations from assistance dogs. Get advice from the owners of 180 breeds in the

Advance ticket prices are 12.50 pounds (about \$24) for adults, 8.50 pounds for children 5 to 15 and 34 pounds for families with two adults, two children. For more details, go to www.the-kennel-club.org.uk or www.crufts.org.uk. Information

working and pastoral dogs.

'Discover Dogs" section.

www.necgroup.co.uk/visitor/ whatson/1870 GERMANY: CeBit, the

world's biggest gathering for information technology, telecommunications, software and services, runs daily through March 16 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Hannover's fairgrounds.

According to its Web site, CeBit's future focuses on solutions for its customers under the major sectors or Business Processes, Communications, Digital Equipment and Services, Banking and Finance, Card Technology, future parc and the Public Sector Parc.

With the participation of more than 6,200 international exhibitors in the space of 320,000 square meters, you're sure to find information on your technological interests.

Tickets cost 37 euros for adults, 17 euros for students 15 or older. On March 12, 13 and the discount price is available for those in the military For details, go to www.cebit.de

HAMBURG: Spring festival, March

Easter egg market, March 19-20.

BRANDENBURG: Easter medieval

HEIDELBERG: Spring festival, April

STUTTGART: Long Night of the Museums. March 19

NEU-ANSPACH (Hessenpark)

BENSHEIM: Irish music festival.

spectacular. March 26-28

ROTHENBURG AM TAUBER

Shepherd's dance, March 27

18-April 9. Camival.

18-April 17

March 20.

1-30

www.hungarytourism.hu BUDAPEST: Spring festival, March 19-April 4 HOLLOKO: Faster festival. March 27-28

IRELAND www.travel.ie

HUNGARY

DUBLIN: St. Patrick's Day festival, March 16-20

ITALY

www.italiantourism.com FLORENCE: Explosion of the cart, March 27 VENICE: SU E ZO PER I PONTI,

March 27. Runs in the city. VENICE: St. Mark's Day, April 25. VENICE: Festa de la Sensa, May

SCOTLAND www.visitscotland.com

GLASGOW: International comedy festival, through March 26. EDINBURGH: Easter festival, March 24-28 HAWICK (Borders): Reivers festival, March 25-27. Historical festival.

www.tourspain.co.uk VALENCIA: Las Fallas March 14-19

THROUGHOUT the country: Holy Week, March 20-27.

SWEDEN

www.visit-sweden.com STOCKHOLM: Faster celebration at Skansen March 24-28

SWITZERLAND

www.switzerlandtourism.ch GENEVA: International car show through March 13. LUCERNE: Easter festival. March 12-20

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GENEVA: Hot-air balloon festival. March 17-20.

ments exhibit, Olympia. LONDON: Boat race, March 27 LONDON: Stitch 2005, March 31-April 3. Needlecrafts, Olympia BIRMINGHAM: Go Fishing, April

1-3. Angling fair. IPSWICH: Bailway Modellers Association Open Day. April 2.

LONDON: Olympia music fair, April 2. Olympia. LONDON: Festival of railway model-

ing, April 2-3. Alexandra Palace ST. Al BANS: International Napole onic fair, April 3. LONDON: Sound design, software

and music technology exhibit, April 14-16 Wembley Exhibition Centre

www.francetourism.com METZ: Flea market. April 2. 16: May 7, 21, 6 a.m.-1 p.m. DIJON: Florissimo, March 10-20. Tropical plants and flowers show in

PARIS: Great wines fair, March 11-13 MARSEILLE: Camival. March 19. LYON: International fair, March

18-27 NICE: Gourd festival. March 27. PARIS: Film festival, March 28-April 4.

PARIS: City marathon, April 10 PARIS: World model and scale model show. April 23-May 1.

GERMANY

www.germany-tourism.de MUNICH: Strong beer season, through March 20. Löwenbrau

HANNOVER: CeBit. through March 16. Computer fair HAMBURG: Dom, March 18-April 17 Camiyal

HEIDELBERG: Long Night of the Museums, April 16 NÜRNBERG: Easter market. March 11-28

FRANKFURT: Dippemesse. March

FRANKELIRT: Music fair April 6-9 CORRECTION

Previous versions of th Calendar gave an incorrect date for Heidelberg's "Long Night of the Museums." The correct date is April 16. Find more information at the Web site of its sponsor, Meier Maga zine: www meier, online de

Visit our Cruise Information Night

March 18 at the Ramstein Officers' Club at 7 p.m Prizes: 10, €100 Cruise Vouchers

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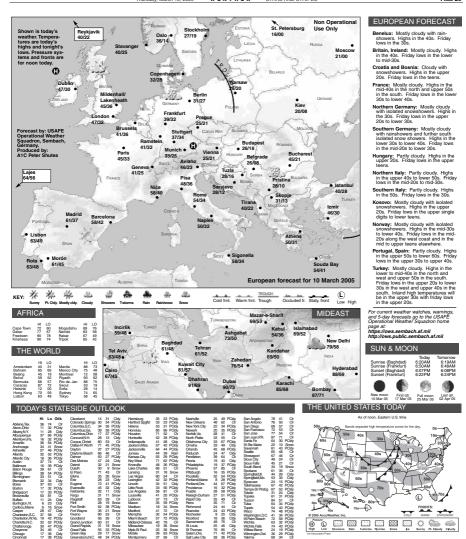
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	AFRTS Television Schedule Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at http://imyafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/									
	THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2005							I		
	(AFN-FAMILY) Stanley	AFN-MOVIE Movie ** "Picnic" (2000,	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS) Hardball With Chris Matthews	(AFN-SPORTS)	SPECTRUM 30-Minute Meals	(AFN-PACIFIC)		
9:00 9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Drama) Josh Brolin, Gretchen		Jeopardy! Headline News	naruban with Criris Matthews	TO BE ATTROUNCED	Low Carb & Lovin It	Jeopardy! Headline News		
10:00	Arthur "D.W. Tale Spin." (EI)	Mol. A drifter sparks turmoil in a small Kansas town.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	The O'Reilly Factor		Design on a Dime	ESPNews		
10:30	Reading Rainbow (EI) Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(10:50) Movie +++ "A Civil	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block Two and a Half Men	Nightline	SportsCenter	Style Star E! News Live	Pacific Report Two and a Half Men		
11:30	Stanley	Action" (1998) John Travolta. A	(:17) General Hospital	(:25) Will & Grace	Nightly Business Report		The King of Queens	(:25) Will & Grace		
12:00	Dora the Explorer	lawyer faces an uphill battle against two large companies.	Headline News	Alias "Time Will Tell"	Dan Rather: A Reporter Re-	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced, (Taped)	That "70s Show "The Keg"	Desperate Housewives 'Guilty'		
12:30	The Wiggles Bob the Builder	Movie ** "Some Kind of	Judge Judy Today Willard Scott; Jack Gillis;	A Katie Couric Special: The 4-	American Morning	Aristouriceu. (rapeu)	Girlfriends Charmed "Charmed Again"	A Katie Couric Special: The 4-		
13:30	Dragon Tales (EI)	Wonderful" (1987) Eric Stoltz. A shy teen tries to win the most	pasta; more beauty for less.	1-1: Teens & Sex			(Part 2 of 2)	1-1: Teens & Sex		
14:00	Blue's Clues Barney & Friends (EI)	popular girl in school.		Pacific Report The Tonight Show With Jay		SportsCenter	Strong Medicine "Mortality"	Pacific Report The Tonight Show With Jay		
14:30 15:00	Funniest Home Videos	(2:49) Movie ** s "Multiplici-	Legend of Tarzan	Leno		Sportscenter	Any Day Now "Three Hours a	Leno		
15:30	Growing Pains "Superdad"	ty" (1996) Michael Keaton. Sci- entifically created dunlicates	Aaahh! Real Monsters	Late Show With David Letter-		To Be Announced	Week"	Late Show With David Letter-		
16:00	Pokémon Yu-Gi-Oh! "Steppin' Out"	complicate a man's life.	Sabrina, the Animated Series Nick News Special Edition	man The Late Late Show With	FOX News		Third Watch "The Relay"	man The Late Late Show With		
16:30 17:00	Doug "Doug's Last Birthday"	FilmFakers "Holly Holiday"	Jeopardy!	Craig Ferguson	FOX News	SportsCenter	Law & Order "Brother's Keep-	Craig Ferguson		
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys	1	Headline News	Dennis Miller		-	er"	Dennis Miller		
18:00	The Fairly OddParents Rugrats	Ebert-Movies Entertainment Tonight	Destinations AFN Evening News	Countdown With Keith Olber-	FOX News	College Basketball Big Ten Tournament First Round	The Simpsons Everybody Loves Raymond	Countdown With Keith Olber-		
18:30	Unfabulous "The Picture"	Movie * * "American Pie"	Two and a Half Men	mann	Dan Rather: A Reporter Re-	Teams TBA. From the United	American Idol	mann		
19:30	All That Jennifer Love Hewitt.	(1999, Comedy) Jason Biggs, Shannon Flizabeth	(:25) Will & Grace	Access Hollywood	members	Center in Chicago. (Live)		Access Hollywood		
20:00	7th Heaven "The Kid Is Out of the Picture"	(:44) Movie ++x "What Lies	Desperate Housewives "Guilty"	Headline News Entertainment Studios.com	FOX News	College Gamenight College Basketball Big Ten	The Practice 'Baby Love'	Headline News Entertainment Studios.com		
20:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Beneath" (2000, Suspense)	A Katie Couric Special: The 4-	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith	Tournament First Round	48 Hours Mystery A mother	The Hot List		
21:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Harrison Ford, Michelle Pleiffer. A housewife is swept up in a	1-1: Teens & Sex	Headline News	1	Teams TBA. From the United Center in Chicago. (Live)	vanishes without à trace.	Headline News		
22:00	The Cosby Show	spirit's supernatural revenge.	Headline News	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto		Friends Seinfeld "The Gum"	Good Morning America		
22:30	Home Improvement Touched by an Angel "Quality	Movie * "Police Academy 5:	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Lester Holt Live	SportsCenter Around the Horn	Daily Show-Jon Stewart			
23:30	Time'	Assignment Miami Beach"	Late Show-Letterman			Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date			
				FRIDAY, MARCH 11,						
00:00	Doug (EI) Rocket Power (Part 2 of 3)	(11:00) * "Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach"	Late Show-Letterman Access Hollywood	Play With Me Sesame Bear in the Big Blue House	Headline News NBC Nightly News	The Hot List NBA Action	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame Bear in the Big Blue House		
1:00	The Fairly OddParents	(12:49) Movie * * * 5 "Ab-	The Hot List	Clifford the Big Red Dog (EI)	ABC World News Tonight	(:15) NBA Basketball Min-	American Idol	Clifford the Big Red Dog (EI)		
1:30	Rugrats	sence of Malice" (1981, Dra- ma) Paul Newman, Sally Field,	College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Wheel of Fortune	CBS Evening News	nesota Timberwolves at Miami Heat. From the AmericanAir-		Wheel of Fortune		
2:00	Unfabulous "The Picture" All That Jennifer Love Hewitt.	Melinda Dillon.	De Armounceu. (Live)	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	lines Arena in Miami. (Live)	American Idol	Dr. Phil		
3:00	7th Heaven "The Kid Is Out of	Movie * * "American Pie"	†	Oprah Winfrey	Hannity & Colmes		National Geographic Explorer	Oprah Winfrey		
3:30	the Picture" Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	(1999, Comedy) Jason Biggs, Shannon Flizabeth	College Basketball Teams to Be Announced, (Live)	UBA NELLI N	Y	NBA Basketball Los Angeles Lakers at Dallas Mavericks.	Friends	NBC Nightly News		
4:00 4:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	(:44) Movie + + : "What Lies	De Alliounceu. (Live)	NBC Nightly News Judge Judy	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	From American Airlines Center	Seinfeld "The Sponge"	Judge Judy		
5:00	Sesame Street (EI)	Beneath" (2000, Suspense) Harrison Ford, Michelle Pfeiffer.		Access Hollywood	Lou Dobbs Tonight	in Dallas. (Live)	Breathingspace Yoga	Access Hollywood		
5:30	D	A housewife is swept up in a	ESPNews	(:25) Guiding Light		1	Caribbean Workout	(:25) Guiding Light		
6:00 6:30	Barney & Friends (EI) Clifford the Big Red Dog (EI)	spirit's supernatural revenge.	CBS Evening News NBC Nightly News	(:13) General Hospital	Larry King Live	Inside the NBA	Body Shaping TIPical Mary Ellen	(:13) General Hospital		
7:00	Dragon Tales (EI)	FilmFakers "Holly Holiday"	Play With Me Sesame	Larry King Live	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	NASCAR Nation	The View	Teacher's Pet		
7:30	Bob the Builder The Wiggles "Lilly"	Ebert-Movies	Bear in the Big Blue House Clifford the Big Red Dog (EI)	Ozzy & Drix "Oh, My Dog"	BET Nightly News	SportsCenter	Emeril Live	What's New Scooby-Doo? Ozzy & Drix "Oh, My Dog"		
8:00 8:30	Dora the Explorer	Entertainment Tonight	Wheel of Fortune	Codename: Kids Next Door	Tavis Smilev	Sportscenter	Emeni Live	Codename: Kids Next Door		
9:00	Stanley	Movie ** * "Having Our	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Hardball With Chris Matthews	College Basketball Pac-10	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!		
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat Arthur (EI)	Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years" (1999, Drama) Dia- hann Carroll, Ruby Dee.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News ESPNews	The O'Reilly Factor	Tournament Quarterfinal Teams TBA. From Staples Cen-	Easy Entertaining-Chiarello Decorating Cents	Headline News ESPNews		
10:00	Reading Rainbow (EI)	hann Carroll, Ruby Dee.	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	The O helly ractor	ter in Los Angeles. (Taped)	The Look for Less	Pacific Report		
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(10:48) Movie ★★★5 "Alien"		The O.C. "The Chrismukkah	Nightline	College Basketball Pac-10	E! News Live	The O.C. "The Chrismukkah		
11:30	Stanley Stanley	(1979) Tom Skerritt, Yaphet Kot- to. An outer-space stowaway at-	(:17) General Hospital Headline News	That Almost Wasn't' Survivor: Palau	Nightly Business Report Primetime Thursday	Tournament Quarterfinal Teams TBA. From Staples Cen-	The King of Queens	That Almost Wasn't' Survivor: Palau		
12:00 12:30	Dora the Explorer The Wiggles "Foodman"	tacks interstellar miners.	Judge Judy	Jul vivot: Palau	rimedile illursuay	ter in Los Angeles. (Taped)	That '70s Show Girlfriends	Jul 11101: Palau		
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie ** * "Pretty Woman"	Today Mel Brooks: the cast of	The Apprentice	American Morning	SportsCenter	Charmed "Hell Hath No Fury"	The Apprentice		
13:30 14:00	Dragon Tales (EI) Blue's Clues "Signs" (EI)	(1990) Richard Gere. An execu- tive plays Pygmalion to a young	"All Shook Up"; whole grains.	Pacific Report	1	College Basketball ACC Tour-	Strong Medicine	Pacific Report		
14:00	Barney & Friends (EI)	streetwalker.		The Tonight Show With Jay	1	nament Opening Round		The Tonight Show With Jay		
15:00	Funniest Home Videos	(:13) Movie ** The Break-	Teacher's Pet	Leno		Teams TBA. From the MCI Center in Washington, D.C.	Any Day Now "The Dust of	Leno		
15:30 16:00	Growing Pains Pokémon "Shell Shock"	fast Club" (1985, Comedy-Dra- ma) Emilio Estevez, Molly Ring-	What's New Scooby-Doo? Ozzy & Drix "Oh, My Dog"	Late Show With David Letter- man	FOX News	(Taped)	Life" Third Watch "Adam 55-3"	Late Show With David Letter- man		
16:00	Yu-Gi-Oh!	wald, Anthony Michael Hall.	Codename: Kids Next Door	The Late Late Show With	I OA HeWS		TIME WATCH MOSH 55-3	The Late Late Show With		
17:00	Doug "Doug's New School"	Yasmine Bleeth Revealed	Jeopardy!	Craig Ferguson	FOX News	SportsCenter	Law & Order "School Daze"	Craig Ferguson		
17:30 18:00	The Wild Thornberrys The Fairly OddParents	Hollywood Backstories	Headline News ESPNews	Dennis Miller	FOX News	College Basketball Big Ten	The Simpsons	Dennis Miller		
18:00	Rugrats "Weaning Tommy"	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	Countdown With Keith Olber-	I OA HeWS	Tournament Quarterfinal		Countdown With Keith Olber-		
19:00	The Fairly OddParents	Movie ★★% "The Three	The O.C. "The Chrismukkah	mann	Primetime Thursday	Teams TBA. From the United Center in Chicago. (Live)	JAG "The One That Got Away"	mann		
19:30	Dave the Barbarian	Stooges" (2000, Biography) Paul Ben-Victor, Evan Handler.	That Almost Wasn't' Survivor: Palau	Access Hollywood Headline News	FOX News		Baston Bublis (Chasto 5	Access Hollywood		
20:00	Danny Phantom Drake & Josh	(:38) Movie ** "Rules of	Survivor: Palau	Headline News Entertainment Studios.com	rux news	College Gamenight College Basketball Conference	Boston Public "Chapter Forty- Nine"	Headline News Entertainment Studios.com		
21:00	Strange Days-Blake Holsey	Engagement" (2000) Tommy Lee Jones, Samuel L. Jackson.	The Apprentice	Good Morning America	Studio B With Shepard Smith	USA Tournament Semifinal Teams TBA. From the FedEx Fo-	Stephen King's Kingdom	Good Morning America		
21:30	Phil of the Future Switched!	An old friend defends a Marine	Headline News		1	rum in Memphis, Tenn.	Hospital "Goodbye Kiss" Friends (Part 1 of 2)			
22:00 22:30	Radio Free Roscoe	accused of killing civilians.	The Tonight Show With Jay	1	Your World With Neil Cavuto	College Basketball Confer-	Friends (Part 1 of 2) Friends (Part 2 of 2)	1		
23:00	The Cosby Show	Movie ★★★ "La Bamba"	Leno	Oobi	Lester Holt Live	ence USA Tournament Semifi- nal Teams TBA. (Live)	Daily Show-Jon Stewart	Oobi		
23:30	Home Improvement	(1987) Lou Diamond Phillips.	Late Show-Letterman	LazyTown "Defeeted"	l	na iddilis IDA. (LIVE)	Blind Date	LazyTown "Defeeted"		



FACES



Humphrey Bogart exuded the word "cool" as Rick Blaine in the 1942 hit "Casablanca." Bogart appeared in 85 films and was nominated three times for the best actor Academy Award, winning for "The African Queen" in 1951. He died in 1957.

The kings of movie cool

When it comes to men in films, these guys are just the right temperature

10 favorite cool male movie characters

2. James Bond (Sean Connery) in "Goldfinger," 1964 3. Luke (Paul Newman) in "Cool Hand Luke," 1967

1. Rick Blaine (Humphrey Bogart) in "Casablanca," 1942

4. Rhett Butler (Clark Gable) in "Gone With the Wind," 1939

Johnny Strabler (Marlon Brando) in "The Wild One," 1954
 Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne) in "The Matrix," 1999

John Robie (Cary Grant) in "To Catch a Thief," 1955
 Rocky Sullivan (James Cagney) in "Angels With Dirty Faces," 1938
 Capt. Virgil Hilts (Steve McQueen) in "The Great Escape," 1963

By BARRY KOLTNOW The Orange County Register

e cool. It's not just a movie title. In Hollywood, being cool can be a career for an actor. At the very least, it can be a single role that becomes etched in our pop-culture consciousness. There are cool actors who never played cool

characters. The late James Dean was the epitome of cool in the 1950s. But there are no cool characters in his abbreviated resume. Johnny Depp is the coolest guy in town right now. Sorry, no cool

characters

And yet, John Travolta has a plethora of cool roles in his portfo lio. He started out cool in "Saturday Night Fever," continued being cool in "Grease" and even found cool in middle age with the role of well-dressed

loan shark Chili Palm-er in "Get Shorty." He reprises the role in the sequel "Be Cool," which finished in sec-

ond place during its opening in U.S. theaters.

Travolta's thoughtful but tough Palmer got us thinking about cool guys in movies. Sure, there have been cool female roles - played by the likes of Mae West, Barbara Stanwyck, Bette Davis and Katharine Hepburn — but they will have to wait for another story.

This story deals with manly men, and the coolness that engulfs them.

The criteria for making the list was entirely subjective. It's a little difficult to describe what constitutes a cool character, despite being a Hollywood staple. It's certainly not Albert Brooks in "Broadcast News." Sweating through your shirt is not a sign of cool.

Woody Allen's Alvy Singer from "Annie Hall" also didn't make the list. A cool character is not afraid of lobsters.

A cool character has to exhibit a strong measure of con-

trol. People trust him and expect him to know what to do in any situation. He doesn't lose his cool when the chins are down. He is usually attractive to the opposite sex and is ad-

ired by other men. He certainly can be less-than-heroic. This is not about heroes John Wayne didn't make the list. This is not about romantic

leading men. Don't look for Robert Redford. This is not about dancing no Fred Astaire or Gene Kelly. This is not about elegance, so don't expect Gregory Peck or Morgan Free-

man Cool is a characteristic that we can't always define, but

we recognize it as soon as we see it. You'll probably notice that the current crop of young male stars is under-represented on the list. Don't shoot the messenger. It's not our fault if the characters they portray lack the all-important cool factor

- The Orange County Register

Once again, this is not about cool actors. This is about cool characters.

Snider to attend school talent show

Dee Snider will go just about anywhere to defend the right to rock.

Snider, frontman for Twisted Sis-ter, whose 1984 hit "We're Not Gonna Take It" salutes teen rebellion, says he'll attend Hamburg (Pa.) Area High School's annual talent show next month when students plug in their amplifiers and let loose.

School administrators had threatened to bar rock bands from the show because of potential injuries caused by moshing, a form of dancing in which participants slam into each other.



Snider, now a disc jockey at Philadelphia rock station WMMR-FM, heard about the controversy and ranted on air about it. School officials eventually backed down, and Snider helped arrange for a security company to work the show.

Costas to receive award

Bob Costas will receive the Dick Schaap Award for Excellence in Sports Journalism at a dinner on April 11.

The award is presented annually by the Nassau County Sports Commission in Manhasset, N.Y.

Costas, a 16-time Emmy winner and veteran of NBC, has hosted six Olympics, the World Series, NBA finals and the Super Bowl. The award was established in 2002 in memory of Dick Schaap, a journalist and

broadcaster. Costas is the host of HBO's "On the Record With Bob Costas" and co-host of "Inside the NFI.

Supermodel's tale of tsunami survival

Petra Nemcova talks about her harrowing experience and the death of her boyfriend, Simon Atlee, in the pound-ing waters of the South Asian tsunami, in an interview to air on ABC.

"There are lots of things which I would love to tell him, but in some way, I also feel that I lost the person closest to me," the 25-year-old supermodel tells Diane Sawver on "Primetime Live," which was slated to air on Wednesday in the States. "And I got a second chance to live. So in a way I feel that I live for both of us .

and I will do my best."

Nemcova and Atlee, a 33-year-old British fashion photographer, were



vacationing at the resort of Phuket in Thailand when the waves swept through their beach hut on Dec. 26. Nemcova was pulled away from Atlee and eventually clung to a palm tree for nearly eight hours before being rescued. Atlee's body was identified March 3 by officials in Thailand.

Keith, Jackson, McGraw to headline fest

Tohy Keith Alan Jackson and Tim McGraw are the big stars at this year's WE Fest country music festival near Detroit Lakes in northwest Minnesota.





headline the first day of concerts on Aug. 4. Others on the first day's bill include Big & Rich. The Charlie Daniels Band and SHe-DAISY.

Keith

Jackson performs Aug. 5. Other perform-

ers that day include Sara Evans, Sawyer Brown, Joe Nichols, Emerson Drive and The Wrights.

McGraw closes the festival on Aug. 6. He'll be joined by "Redneck Woman" singer Gretchen Wilson, Dierks Bentley, Trick Pony and Shelly Fairchild.

Ticket prices range from \$100 to \$500.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

STARS STRIPES, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Female GIs. complete the look

Does wearing a uniform mean that a fe male is less than a woman?

There are many professions in which women have to wear uniforms, such as the military, police force, fire department, some construction sites, the postal and medical fields, and the list goes on. However, because these women wear uniforms, does that make them less of woman? The answer is no.

Therefore, why is it that many of our U.S. Army female soldiers, compared with all the other branches of services, have to look so beat down?

Females, take pride in your appear ance. We understand that, because of your line of work, many of you may not see the need to spend much time in front of a mirror. However, make time, even if you have to sacrifice getting up five or 10 minutes earlier. You deserve that time. A woman - regardless if she's heterosexual. homosexual or bisexual — who takes time out for herself feels better about herself - and it will show

Regardless of what others may say differently about her, she can still walk with her head held high. She doesn't need anyone to validate her, because she knows who she is, and, no question about it, she knows where she's going.

So, to my female soldiers, take a stand, let your God-given beauty shine, because you are Mother Earth and you are beauti-

> Sgt. Yolanda Jones Taji, Iraq

Army limits iob options

As I read "The sting of being overlooked" (article, Feb. 25), I realized how many contractors are working here in the Middle East

Hundreds of contractors have "volunteered" to take on the task the military has taken away from troops. Makes me wonder if we really do have a second Army.

These contractors who come in put their lives on the line willingly, but are paid handsomely. I am not saying they do not deserve a special memorial. They are working for the government and are. without a doubt, doing a great job.

I guess my beef is not with the contractors, but with the military itself. Many jobs are now going to civilian employment. How do you expect recruiting levels to go up when the only occupations left are all infantry?

The reason the Army had a rising number in recruiting for years was the vast amount of jobs available. It made it easier for someone to pick up a skill and use it when they were done with their military career.

Now they are taking that privilege away. What does a \$15,000 re-enlistment

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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bonus mean to me when I can make \$130,000 a year working as a contractor

overseas? I am going overseas no matter what. Why don't I do it willingly and make some cash? I think the government needs to rethink what it is doing. My heart goes out to Roberta Stramiello, and the many other families who have

lost loved ones in this war. This is not to bash contractors. It is to wake up the government. Life is too precious to take for granted. Sgt. Jason Reyes

Camp Arifian, Kuwait

Deserving GIs not rewarded

What does a soldier have to do to receive an award that is well-deserved around here?

Nowhere in regulations can I find where rank is a factor in the awards process. The last time I checked, it wasn't the senior enlisted and officers doing all the work around here. I'm not taking credit away from what they do, but I believe that the soldier (lower enlisted) is what keeps this Army going. So why are their actions in combat and the awards they receive so frequently overlooked or downgraded?

Meanwhile, the pressures of re-enlistment are so frequently stressed. Why would a soldier want to stay in a branch of military service that doesn't give credit where credit is due? How, as leaders, are we supposed to sit back and watch our soldiers get passed over for meritori-ous actions and slam them for having their hands in their pockets? It seems to me that achievement is frequently overlooked while the slightest mistake is not.

I might sound like a disgruntled employee but, trust me, I am not. I am just saving what few have the intestinal fortitude to. I have watched soldiers in my task force get overlooked for very courageous actions while forward operating base dwellers go back to the States looking like war heroes. All the while, if we have problems meeting set standards, we lower those standards to keep the numbers up.

Can someone tell me how this is supposed to work? Sgt. Justin Chestnut

Baghdad

Poor treatment, fewer re-ups

There seems to be something in the news daily about recruiters not making their enlistment goals and "reasons" for the decline, then comes the March 4 article regarding a 41 percent drop in black enlistments ("Study shows Army's black enlistments drop"). As a retired Army master sergeant, I retired earlier than I intended because of the politicalization of the military. My question is: Why is no one willing to face the real facts concerning the recruitment problems?

You have a group of pencil-pushing politicians at the Pentagon pretending to be officers. These make-believes, like elected politicians, are scared to death of the press and what a few vocal society rejects think of them. Men and women are sent into combat to do a job, then their superiors can't wait to throw them in iail or administer some sort of punishment when they rotate back to the States. People are getting tired of this crap and are no longer going to place themselves in this position.

I can see them reinstituting the draft to meet the needs of the services. I can also see mass refusal to report when drafted: after all, you only have room in jail for so many people and, with the attitude of many of today's judges, they would more than likely be released.

The bottom line is, until there is a house cleaning and change in attitudes at the upper levels of the chain of command, recruiting will become an ever-growing problem.

Army Master Sgt. Roy D. King (retired) Rogersville, Tenn.

Stripes is reminder of home

I just wanted to thank [Stripes reporters and editors] for a wonderful newspaper. It reminds me of home, especially with the bits of information from around the States. Every time there's a paper around, I grab it. You have a way of keeping people wanting more.

Thank you again for making home seem just a little closer.

Mary Butler

Camp Anaconda, Kuwait Correction

In the March 8 edition, the writer of the letter "'Close But no Cigars' badge," 1st Sgt. Robert C. Dedic, was listed as writing from Kuwait. He is, in fact, serving in

Doonesbury







BY GARRY TRUDEAU

OPINION

No longer business as usual in Arab world

ho on Earth wants to be known as the last foe of freedom? Not Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, who last Thursday joined a chorus of leaders telling Syrian President Bashar Assad to end his nation's three-decade occupation of Lebanon.

Not Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who abruptly announced plans to hold the first free, multiparty election in his coun-

Not President Mahmoud Abbas, whose path to Palestinian independence is now blocked less by Israel than by peace-averse militant groups such as Islamic Jihad and

And certainly not the brave peoples of Afghanistan, of Georgia, of Ukraine, of Iraq, who have raised loud their voices for free dom, often at peril to their lives. Each day, new tremors signal populist demands in lands where freedom has not thrived. This is, then, one of those explosive moments when history is written not in books, but screaming headlines.

Now it is Lebanon's turn, with citizens by the millions heralding a "cedar revolution Is it possible that Iran, with its repressive and unpopular mullahs, could be next? And in sclerotic Syria, who today would buy Assad futures? That, of course, is the dilemma dictators face in these moments of tumult: When history lurches, where will it next land? For that matter, why does it lurch? Why is this happening now?

The prophet pro tem of the world's spreading freedom movement is Walid Jumblatt, the influential patriarch of Druze Muslims in Lebanon. He has long been a critic of the United States and Israel, but of late has been a thorn to the occupying Syrians.

Since he spoke to a Washington Post columnist on Feb. 23, his assessment to many listeners - has resonated around the globe: "It's strange for me to say it, but this process of change has started because of the American invasion of Iraq. I was cynical about Irag. But when I saw the Iragi neople voting three weeks ago, 8 million of them, it was the start of a new Arab world The Syrian people, the Egyptian people, all say that something is changing. The Berlin Wall has fallen. We can see it.

On the same evening Jumblatt spoke, a hitherto unthinkable headline — it, too, continues to ripple around the world — erupted on the Web site of the German newsmagazine Der Spiegel: "Could George W. Bush be

Beneath that radical thought, writer Claus Christian Malzahn likened Bush's then pending visit to Germany to President Ronald Reagan standing before the Brandenburg Gate in 1987: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this

In January, setting the tone of his second term, Bush had told reporters: "I believe de-mocracy can take hold in parts of the world that have been condemned to tyranny. And I believe when democracies take hold, it leads to neace 1

The response in Der Spiegel: "Bush's idea of a Middle Eastern democracy imported at the tip of a bayonet is, for (German liberals), the hysterical offspring of the American neo-cons. Even German conservatives find the idea that Arabic countries could transform themselves into enlightened democracies somewhat absurd. ... Europeans today just like the Europeans of 1987 — cannot imagine that the world might change. ... We Europeans always want to have the world from yesterday, whereas the Americans strive for the world of tomorrow.



In a follow-up article, Der Spiegel asked, "How quickly can the virus of democracy

That is the question for other despots as they contemplate the likely fate of Saddam Hussein. They're trapped in their own spider holes. No longer can they survive solely by stoking public hatred of the Great Satan. As citizens who witness democracy in neighboring Iraq and upheaval in Lebanon ask. Why not us?" the enemy of the tyrant becomes not so much the United States, but the aspirations of his own people.

No movement has only one catalyst: Pales-

tinians, for example, needed to be free of Yasser Arafat before independence could emerge as an option. But Washington's muscular diplomacy unarguably is playing a crucial role throughout the Mideast. For one repressive regime after another, the sight of American soldiers at long last enforcing United Nations resolutions — and bestowing democracy on a subjugated people - surely must concentrate the mind.

History written in headlines can reverse course just as fast. We are a long way from knowing whether the still unfinished liberation of Iraq helps transform a troubled region. But for the foes of freedom, the Mid-east must feel like a suddenly smaller place.

Bush's designs on veterans benefits fail inspection Hey, tell that to the Swift Boat boys who

fend itself in the future will have to be slashed Incentives for young people to join the vol unteer military are in jeopardy even as U.S. forces are being strained in Afghanibeing

Myriam Marquez

stan and Iraq And it's all the fault

of military veterans and even their widows. That's what David Chu, the Pentagon's undersecretary for personnel and readiness says about increases in veterans benefits that Congress approved since 1999

"The amounts have gotten to the point where they are hurtful They are taking away from the nation's abili-ty to defend itself," Chu told The Wall Street Journal recently

Chu's remarks became the Pentagon's shot heard around the blogosphere. Vets aren't going down without a fight.

The Pentagon estimates increases in bene fits, some approved by Congress during the Clinton administration, will cost \$100 billion more in the next six years. But whose fault is that? Those benefits were promised long ago. Then the government tried to wiggle out of its obligation. After veterans groups, a powerful voting bloc, forced the issue, both Republicans and Democrats came to the rescue - despite the Bush administration's attempts to nickel-and-dime vets

You don't take on the Greatest Generation without paying a political price. But President Bush, having won a second term to office with strong support from veterans, has nothing to lose. Forget veterans benefits — tax cuts that disproportionately help the richest Americans, reasoning they will create more jobs and strengthen the economy. Except too many of those jobs are going to

India, China and so forth, Not just grunt work, but technical jobs, too, that pay well,

Thomas H. Corey, national president of Vietnam Veterans of America, fired his own volley back at the Bush administration after it released the latest veterans budget proposal, which would require that certain veterans pay more for their health care. "The president is mistaken if he believes that 58 percent of veterans voted for the Bush-Cheney ticket last year to give his ad-ministration a mandate to cut funds for veterans," Corey said. "If he believes that veterans voted to restrict access to health care, he needs to reassess his position

sought to besmirch Sen. John Kerry's military service during the presidential cam-

Several veterans groups, including the Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, the Paralyzed Veterans of America and Veterans of Foreign Wars have put together their own budget proposal. They figure the De-partment of Veterans Affairs needs \$31.2 billion for medical care.

The administration is proposing \$27.8 billion — a less than one-half percent increase. Adjusted for inflation, Bush's plan amounts Bush wants to increase vets' medical-in-

surance enrollment to \$250 a year, raise prescription copayments and restrict certain care. This would drive 213,000 vets, many already on tight retirement hudgets away

from the VA medical system, the veterans groups estimate.

Long-term care would be gutted under the Bush plan, too, serving 27 percent fewer vets in 2006 than in 1998.

Pitting military retirees and vets against those who are serving today is a sideshow that hides the main event — the true reasons for the federal budget crunch. Exploding annual deficits have more to do with Bush's penchant for over-the-top tax cuts than long-overdue benefits for those who risked their lives to defend this country during two world wars. Korea. Vietnam, and all the other military operations to this day. Veterans' benefits don't deserve to be on the chopping block.

By BRUCE TINSLEY

Myriam Marquez is an editorial page columnist for The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel.

Mallard Fillmore

Tyler, as a okesperson for AN EASIER E SELF-ESTEEM GENERATION, WHAT QUESTION? WOULD YOU SAY IS SIGNATURE QUALITY HS ABJSMA **IGNORANGE**

Horoscope

The new moon in Pisces brings extraordinary powers of vulnerability. But wait - how can vulnerability be a "power"? It takes a strong person to let down the **Holiday Mathis** guard and allow the world to imprint its message. Before you use the new-moon energy to embark on your new goal, relationship or project, take a moment to listen to the whispering wind

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 10). You follow through until you get what

you want! Learning how to conquer procrastination changes your year's complexion The late spring shows you to be so attractive you'll need to guard your private time or it gets snatched up. Singles will date someone very special. Start new projects in June. Your best signs for love are Capricom and Virgo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You're in a dream state, fantasizing about the impossible - an insanely high target. You may as well believe you can do it. Your sign mate, Thomton Wilder, said, "Hope, like faith ... is nothing if it is not ridiculous."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're getting the info you need to

be a more efficient judge of character. You can look into your own future and see how a relationship will go. Hint: Someone who e-mails you constantly has too much time on his or her hands.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Those close to you rely heavily on your abilities. Share the burden. You have terrific luck attracting just the person for the job, which makes this the perfect time to find a reliable mechanic a kind dentist and a dependable baby sitter.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

While it's noble to take one for the team, it's stupid to take two, three or four for the team. If you feel like you've been beaten up on the playground of life, it's an excellent day to stand up to the bully.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Vibes are hot for getting into tiptop shape. Work it — you'll have fun, too. Warning: Be wary of a relationship that

involves not only the object of your affection but also an ever-present mother figure.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Expectations are rising. You look around at the people close to you

and wonder, "What have you done for me lately?" Is it so wrong to want a love who

can bring home the bacon and fry it up in a pan'

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Anticipa-

tion can be exhilarating for a short while, but if it goes on longer, it's practi cally coma-inducing. When you find yourself waiting and waiting, repeat this mantra: "I am

a self-empowered, radiant iewel." SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

You're moving into a new chapter At the end of the day, evaluate your experiences to learn as much as you can, appreciate the gifts acquired and move on. Tomorrow. literally get up on the other side of

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec.

21). Socially, you're hot - of course. Who doesn't like being around someone who embraces it all - the funny, the embarrassing, the romantic and all those other experiences that make your days interesting?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). Your special project is the focus. Work harder to convince the money people that yours is the one to back. This process will teach you much about your level of commitment and how strong you are in your convictions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Respect, not money, is the issue,

though they get tangled into one another. For family harmony, schedule personal alone time, and then keep the appointment. When you're happy with you, others give you golden treatment

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

The late nights are starting to catch up to you. If you can barely keep your eyes open at work, you're not the only one. Grab a colleague, and take a walk to the coffee stand down the block. The gossip you learn is enlightening.

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Peanuts









Worse 5















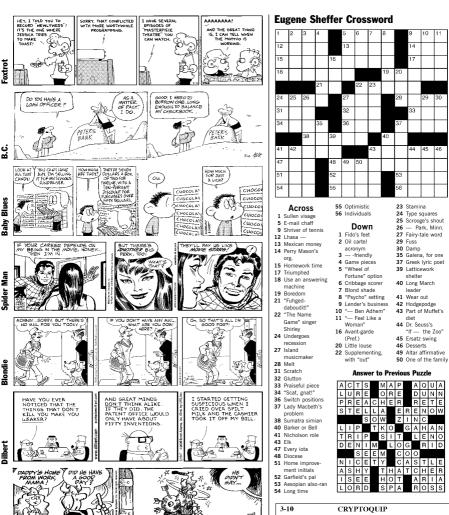








Thursday, March 10, 2005 · STARS AND STRIPES · PAGE 35



IT SEEMS FOND

TEM DAVES \$10

ЧАААННН!!!

I CAN'T STAND THE BOREDOM

MFUO XBY MOFDJ SMFS

S M O UFKJFGH JOHSDBXOJ DBFJ

ноткн. NYGGOKT BYS FGG

HSBNH?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE NUN ASKED TO LEAVE THE CONVENT, BUT SHE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO SHAKE THE HABIT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T

Scheming sister should be watched

Dear Abby: My mother died last year. My 93-year-old father now lives with my sister "Lila" i her apartment back east. I have four brothers and another sister who reside in the same state

I live in Arizona. Although I'd love for Dad to live here with me he doesn't want to put such a great distance between himself and the rest of the family.

Dad gets \$3,000 a month from Social Security. Since Lila doesn't work, she decided that she should be the one to take care of our father. All of us agreed that she should take Dad's Social Security check and use it for his care. Dad also has about \$400,000 put away that is to be split among his chil-

dren when he passes away Recently, Lila took \$21,000 of our father's money, claiming it was a "gift" so she can purchase a co-op. (Dad would buy it: her name would be on the deed) Someone, I'm not sure who, called Dad's lawyer and reported the withdrawal. The lawver met with Lila and my brother "Herwho has our father's power of attorney. The lawyer told Lila she can either pay back the \$21,000 or it'll be deducted from her inheritance. The lawver then put Dad's money into a trust fund so it cannot be

touched Now that she can't have the money as a gift, Lila is very angry and refuses to let anyone speak to Daddy on the phone.

Besides retaliating against us, it is also nunishing Dad. Because I live across the country, the phone is my only means of com munication with him.

I'm at my wit's end. Is there anything I can do?

— Help! in Arizona

Dear Help!: There sure is. Pick up the phone and discuss this with your siblings and your father's lawyer.

If your brothers and sisters do not live close enough to check regularly on Dad's welfare, it

worker or care manager, or move him to an assisted-living facility. Please don't wait.

Dear Abby: I am in seventh grade and I have a problem.

Everyone refers to me as "Roy's" little sister. Roy is good at sports and is popular. I am not -

so no one remembers my name.

I want to be called by my name, but my brother's friends always seem to forget it. I hang out with Roy a lot, and I don't want to be called that anymore - but I don't know how to say it Any suggestions?

· Invisible in Greenfield, Ind. Dear Invisible: Ask your brother to help by reminding his friends that you have a nam when they refer to you as his little sister. If it happens in front of you, speak up and say, "My name is (It may take some time, but eventually they'll catch on.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can writ to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

Unscramble these four lumbles one letter to each square. to form four ordinary words





to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's

RAVEN COVEY GULLET Answer: What it took to sandbag the town against the

rising river - A LEVEE LEVY

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

> HE DIDN'T TAKE SIDES IN THE DEBATE BECAUSE HE WAS A ---Now arrange the circled letters

> > (Answers tomorrow) YEARLY

Steer clear of deceitful mom-in-law

Dear Annie: My sister-in-law, "Diane," recently started a small business, and my moth er-in-law, "Annette," has been helping her.

They agreed to split the profits. Business was slow at first, and there were no profits after the bills were paid. Annette complained to everyone who would listen that she wasn't making any money. One day, Annette con-

fessed to me that if a customer pays in cash, she just pockets it. I was appalled, but my husband said to keep quiet. Six weeks later, Diane called me, frantic, because money and inventory were miss-ing. She asked for my help, and I told her what I knew about Annette. Diane was horrified and furious.

Three weeks ago, when the books were off again, Diane confronted her mother, who then said all kinds of vicious things about me. In retaliation, I spilled the beans to Diane about the nasty things Annette had said about her - and there were plenty



grandchildren, and badmouthing my husband and me to whoever will listen. My mother-in-law has a long history of lying and rotten behavior, but

everyone writes it off as a personality disorder. I cannot fathom stealing from my own child and am outraged by her subsequent

hostility. Should I confront her?

- And You Think Your Mother-in-Law Is Bad?

Dear AYTYMILIB: What are you hoping to accomplish? Annette sounds as if she isn't play ing with a full deck, and unless she is willing to seek professional help to readjust her behavior, nothing will change.

You do not have to maintain contact if she is mean to your children, but please don't add fuel to the fire. Let your husband deal with his mother as he wishes, but you should steer clear.

Dear Annie: I am in my early 50s, and my boyfriend, "Wallace, is 10 years younger. We've been together for two years. Wallace seems to suffer from low self-esteem. Every time I compliment him, he has trouble accepting my words. Last night. I told him he had beautiful eyes, and he replied,

"No. I don't." This happens every time I comment positively about him. I love him very much, and it frustrates me that he questions my sincerity.

— New Jersey Dear N.J.: Wallace isn't questioning your sincerity. He simply doesn't know how to receive a compliment. So teach him. Next time you compliment him and he responds negatively, look him in the eye and say, "Wallace, I want you to say only the words 'thank you.' Try it." It might take some practice and many reminders, but this can work.

Dut IIIs Carn Work.
Annie's Malibox is written by Kathy
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Family Circus



"The day I took Kittycat to school when she was a kitten, I had the most friends ever!"

GRAFFITI WINNERS





"Barrow"-precursor to the game



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SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Thursday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. Motorcycle racing: FIM Speedway GP (Sweden and Slovenia) (dld). AFN-Sports, noon-Pro basketball: Atlanta Speedway GP (Sweeners)
AFN-Sports, noon-Pro basketuan. Grad Boston (did).
AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.-College basketball: Big
AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.-College basketball: Big

Friday

AFN-Sports and Radio, 1 a.m.-Pro basket-ball: Minnesota at Miami. AFN-Atlantic, 1:30 a.m.-College basketball: southeastern Conference tournament quar-erfinal doubleheader.

Southeastern Conference tournament quar-erfinal doubleheader. am. Pro basketball: LA. ARN-Sports. 9 am. College basketball: An akers at pallas. ARN-Sports. 9 am. College basketball: An account of the college basketball: Arn-gort Conference tournament quarterfinal doubleheader (did).

did).

AFN-Sports, 4 p.m.-Motor racing: Crandon nternational Off-Road Race 1 (did).

AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.-College basketball: Big for Conference tournament doubleheader. arti-Sports, 6 p.m.-College basketball: Big fen Conference tournament doubleheader, AFN-Sports, 10:30 p.m.-College basketball: Onference USA tournament semifinal dou-leheader.

All times are Central European Time; did indicates delayed listing. All listings are sub-ject to change. Visit www.myafn.netfor more information.

Baseball

Spring training glance AMERICAN LEAGUE

Toronto Boston Cleveland Tampa Bay Detroit Baltimore Pct .667 .667 .600 .500 .500 .500 .375 .286 Detroit Baltimore Los Angeles Texas Minnesota Oakland Chicago Kansas City .250 5555 .167 NATIONAL LEAGUE Pct 1.000 .800 .714 Atlanta St. Louis Chicago Colorado Milwaukee San Francisco San Diego Washington Arizona Cincinnati New York .714 .714 .714 .667 .667 .571 .571 .571 .333 .250 .250 .167 .167 Los Angeles

Los Angeles
Hondadelpha
NOTE: Spill-squad games count in
ings: games against non-may
teams do not
Tresday's games
Adainata 8, NY, Yankees 2
Tampa Bay 12, Detroit 4
Floridan 2, L.A. Dodgers 3)
Floridan 3, L.A. Dodgers 3)
Floridan 3, L.A. Dodgers 3)
Floridan 3, L.A. Dodgers 30, 4
Floridan 3, L.A. Dodgers 30, 4
Floridan 3, L.A. Dodgers 30, 4
Floridan 4, L.A. Dodgers 30, 4
Floridan 5, L.A. Dodgers 30, 4
Floridan 6, L.A. Dodgers 30, 4

Toronto (s.g.) Allminescala (s.g.) 1
San Flancisco, T., (rosa.) 1
San Diego (j. Millenguisee (s.g.) 1
San Diego (j. Millenguisee (s.g.) 1
San Diego (j. Millenguisee (s.g.) 1
Sociation (s.g.) 1
Sociation

L.A. Dodgers vs. Tampa Bay at St. Peters-burg, Fla. Cincinnati (ss) vs. Detroit (ss) at Lakeland. Fia. Cincinnati (ss) vs. Philadelphia at Clearwa-ter, Fla. Cincinnati (ss) vs. Philadelphia at Clearwa-ter, Fla.
St. Louis, Wheet at Port St. Lucie, Fla.
St. Louis, Chicacolisti at Mesa, Ariz, Colorado vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, Sant Francisco vs. Oakland at Phoenix, Carlo vs. Carlo vs.

Ariz.

Houston vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.

Thursday's games

Detroit vs. Cincinnati at Sarasota, Fla.

Pittsburgh vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.

LA. Dodgers vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.

Houston vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, My.

Mets vs. Baltimore at Fort Lauderdale,

Ny. Mets vs. Baltimore at Fort Lauderdale,

Fla. Florida vs. Washington (ss) at Viera, Fla. Philadelphia vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla. Cleveland (ss) vs. Tampa Bay at St. Peterswas nampa Bay at St. Peters-Washington (ss) vs. Cleveland (ss) at Winter Haven, Fla. San Diego vs. Colorario at To-Chicano Color Haven, Fla. San Diego vs. Colorado at Tucson, Ariz. Chicago Cubs vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz Oakland vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Ariz. Kansas City vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix Chicago White Sox vs. Texas at Surr.

College basketball Men's Top 25 schedule

Wednesday
No games Schemers Schemers
No ganes Schemers Schemers
No ganes Thursday's games
No ganes Schemers
No ganes Schemers
No ganes
No

NCAA men's automatic bids

Central Florida, Atlantic Sun Conference Chattanooga, Southern Conference Creighton, Missouri Valley, Conference Eastern Kentucky, Ohio Valley Conference Gonzaga, West Coast Conference Louisiana-Lafayette, Sun Belt Conference Nagara, Merto Atlantic Athletic Conf. Oakland, Mich., Mid-Continent Conference Old Dominion, Joinal Athletic Assoc. Old Dominion, Colonial Athletic Assoc. Pennsylvania, Ivy League Winthrop, Big South Conference Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Horizon League

Tuesday's men's scores

Brown 75, Yale 65 Penn 64, Princeton 56

MIDWEST
Missouri Baptist 86, McKendree 65
TOURNAMENTS
Big Sky Conference
Semifinals

Montana 79, Montana 5t. 67
Weber St. 71, Portland St. 61
Horizon League
Championship
Wis.-Milwaukee 59, Betroit 58
Mid-Continent Confere
Championship
Oakland, Mich. 61, Oral Robert
Mid-Fastern Athletic Con Championship
Oakland, Mich. 61, Oral Roberts 60
Mid-Eastern Athletic Conferen
First Round

Bethune-Cookana T6, N. Carolina A&T 62
Southland Conference
First Round
Northwestern S. B., Texas-Arlington 67
Sam Houston S. B., Texas-Arlington 67
Sam Houston S. B., McNeese St. 70
Sam Houston St. 88, McNeese St. 70
Sam Houston St. 88, McNeese Championship
Louisians-Laffayette 89, Deriver 69

Boise St. 83, Tulsa 73 Hawaii 72, San Jose St. 48

Women's AP Top 25 fared

Tuesday 1. Stanford (29-2) did not play. Next: TBA. 2. LSU (29-2) did not play. Next: TBA. 3. Tennessee (25-4) did not play. Next: Tennessee (25-4) did not play. N TBA.
 North Carolina (27-3) did not play. N

TBA 5. Duke (28-4) did not play. Next: TBA.
6. Baylor (24-3) did not play. Next: vs. Missouri. Wednesday. souri, Wednesday. 7. Michigan State (28-3) did not play. Next: TBA.

TBA.

8. Ohio State (28-4) did not play. Next: TBA.

9. Rutgers (25-6) lost to No. 13 Connecticut
67-51. Next: TBA.
10. Notre Dame (26-5) did not play. Next:

11. Texas (20-7) did not play. Next: vs. Oklahoma, Wednesday. 12. Minnesota (24-7) did not play. Next: TBA. 13. Connecticut (23-7) beat No. 9 Rutgers

13. Connecticut (25-1) Deat No. 9 Mutgers 67-51. Next: TBA. 14. Texas Tech (21-6) did not play. Next: vs. No. 18 Iowa State, Wednesday. 15. Temple (27-3) did not play. Next: TBA. 16. DePaul (25-4) did not play. Next: vs.

TBA. North Carolina State (21-6) did not play. Next:
20. North Carolina State (21-6) did not
play. Next: TBA.
21. Georgia (22-8) did not play. Next: TBA.
22. Penn State (19-10) did not play. Next:
TBA.
23. Boston College Boston College (19-9) did not play. consin-Green Bay (27-3) did not play. TBA. 25. TCU (23-9) did not play. Next: TBA.

NCAA women's automatic bids

Canisius, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conf. Connecticut, Big East Conference Eastern Kentucky, Ohio Valley Conference Michigan State, Big Ten Conference Middle Tennessee, Sun Belt Conference

TANK McNamara

North Carolina, Atlantic Coast Conference Oral Roberts, Mid-Continent Conference Oral Roberts, Mid-Continent Corin Santa Clara, West Coast Conferen Stanford, Pacific-10 Conference Temple, Atlantic 10 Conference Tennessee, Southeastern Confere Texas Christian, Conference USA Western Carolina, Southern Confe

Tuesday's women's scores

EAST Harvard 70, Dartmouth 67 TOURNAMENTS Big 12 Conferen va St. 64, Colorado 63 ssouri 62, Kansas 57 skraska 60. Oklahoma

ound n 60, Charleston

Birmingha outhern 45

Robert Morris 68, Sacred Heart 62, OT St. Francis, Pa. 65, Quinnipiac 49 St. Francis, Pa. 65, Quinnipiac 49 St. Francis, Pa. 65, Quinnipiac 49 Middle Tennessee 67, Louissiana-Lafayet Western Athletic Conference First Round Boise St. 55, UTEP 50 Nevada 65, Hawaii 61

College baseball

Tuesday's scores

EAST Coppin St. at Navy, ppd., weather Fairleigh Dickinson at Seton Hall, ppd., reatner
Hartford at Cent. Connecticut, and., field. conditions Hofstra at Lafayette, ppd., field conditions Md.-Eastern Shore at Maryland, 2, ppd. veather UMBC at Mount St. Mary's, Md., ppd, field conditions Youngstown St. at Duquesne, ccd. weath SOUTH Appalachian St. at Charlotte, ppd., weath

Austin Peay 4-1, Indiana St. 3-0 Belhaven 7. Millsaps 6 Belhaven 7. Millsaps 6 Cather Millsaps 6 Cather 6, Millsaps 6 Connecticut 8, Sacred Heart 0 Daydtoon 12, Valor Carey 3 E. Carolina 16, N. Carolina 84T 5 Elona x N.C.-Wilmington, ppd., weather Evansville 5, Tenn-Martin 4 veather

vealth, ccd. Fairfield at Va. Commonwearrii, co... weather Flagier 8, Marian, Ind. 3 Florida 8, N.C. Asheville 1 Fla. International 10, LaSalle 2 Furman at Gardner-Webb, ppd., weather Georgia 12, Tennessee Tech 2 Georgia 51 at W. Carolina, ppd., weather Georgia 14 w. Carolina, ppd., weather Georgia 14 w. Carolina, ppd., weather Georgia 15 at W. Carolina, ppd., weather

Guilford 23, Vassar 22 Ind.-Pur.-Ft. Wayne 13, E. Kentucky 9, 10 in-

Jacksonville St. 13, Alabama St. Areatucky 3, 201
Jacksonville St. 13, Alabama St. Vaterater Lagrange 20, LeMoyne-Ower 1, James Madison at Liberty, ppd., weather Lagrange 20, LeMoyne-Ower 1, Loyola, N.O. at Alcorn St. ppd., weather Miami 3, Pittsburgh 0
Marshall at VMI, ccd., weather Miami 3, Pittsburgh 0
Middle Tennessee 11, Mens, 1
Mississippi St. 5, Louisiana Tech 3
Mississippi St. 5, Louisiana Tech 3
Mississippi St. 5, Louisiana Tech 3
M.J. City 14, Swarthmore 3
M.J. City N.L. CBJ, 15, Walterhinders Shoro 6. North Georgia 6. Martin Methodist 3 Nova Southeastern 6. Bloomfield 3 Old Dominion at Richmond, ccd., weather Southeastern 6. Bloomfield 5 Rollins 13, Merrimack 1 Seamford at ETSU, ccd., weather Stetson 7. South Florida 5 Stetson 7. South Florida 5 Trevecca Nazarene 4, S.C.-Alien 1 Tulane 6, ISU 2 St. Ambrose 16-8, Palm Beach Atlantic 10-4 St. Ambrose 16-8, Palm Beach Atlantic 10-4 St. Leo 1, Shippensburg 0 South Alabama 7, SE Louisiana 6 Stetson 7, South Florida 6

Stetson 7, South Florida UAB 5, Troy 3 UCF 22, Saint Joseph's 3 Vanderbilt 11, Lipscoml Virginia 8, Longwood 0

Wake Forest 15, Ball St. 11 Webber 12, King College 8 Webber 12, Walsh 2 West Alabama 8, Bluefield St. 1 Wright St. at Louisville, ppd., weather MIDWEST MIDWEST MIDWEST
Hamline 8-9, Mayville St. 1-1
Indiana-Southeast 13, Hanover 3
Miami (Ohio) at Dayton, ccd., wea
Xavier at Indiana, ccd., weather
SOUTHWEST

MA 60, Oklahoma St. 4: MB 65, Texas A&M 65 Big East Conferen Championship dcut 67, Rutgers 51 Big South Conferen First Round am-Southers

summingnam-Southern 60, Carolina 41
High Pol BS, Winthops 36
N.C.-Saheville 47, Radford 32
Mid-Continent Conference
Championship
Oral Roberts 48, UMKC 42
Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference
First Round
Norfolk St. 60, Bethune-Cookman 51
Northeast Conference
Schott Morris 200

nzaga 14, Penn St. 6 esno St. 6. Penn 1 Auto racing

Arkansas 11, Oklahoma St. 7 Arkansas St. 14, S. Dakota St. 1 Lardin-Simmons 13, Friends 1

Hardin-Simmons 13, Priends 11 Houston 4, Sam Houston St. 0 Lamar 7-4, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 2-3 McMurry 20, North Park 6 Murray St. 16, Ark-Little Rock 1

Murray St. 16, Ark.-Little Rock 1 Northwestern St. 5, Baylor 4 Oklahoma 21, Ark.-Pine Bluff 8 Texas-Ardington 6, Texas A&M 4 TCU 9, Texas Tech 2 Texas Pan American 9, Prairie View 5 Texas Southern at Texas State, ppd., field

FAR WEST
Brigham Young 15, Utah Valley St. 8
California at St. Mary's, Cal., ppd., field cor

California at St. Mary's, Cal., pdd.
Glidons Thickee, 6, UCLA 2
G. D. Beach St. 6, Loyala Marym
M.M. Highland J1, New Mexico 5
N. Colorado 8-9, Air Force 4-3
San Diego St. 8, UC Irvine 6
UC Riverside 8, Southern Cal 3
Usan 17-9, Marymon Control of Washington Cortland 1
Washington Cortland 1
TOURNAMENTS
Michigan St. 10, Campbell 6
Jacksonville 5, Villantova 1

Jacksonville 5, Villanova 1 Mercer 8, Toledo 5 North Florida 11, Belmont 7 Pepsi-Johnny Quik Classic Dallas Baptist 9, Monmouth, N.J. 5 San Francisco 10, S. Utah 3

Nextel Cup schedule

(x-non-points race)
Feb. 12 — x-Budweiser Shootout (Jimmie – Davtona 500. Davtona Beach. Fla. (Jeff Gordon)
Feb. 27 — Auto Club 500, Fontana, Calif.
(Greg Biffle)
March 13 — UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400, Las March 13 — UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400, Las legas. March 20 — Golden Corral 500, Hampton.

ia. April 3 — Food City 500, Bristol, Tenn. April 10 — Advance Auto Parts 500, Martin-ville, Va. April 17 — Samsung/RadioShack 500, Fort Worth Toyas Worth, Texas. April 23 — Subway Fresh 500, Avondale,

riz. May 1 — Aaron's 499, Talladega, Ala. May 7 — Dodge Charger 500, Darlington, S.C. May 14 — Chevt American Revolution 400, Richmond, Va. May 21 — x-All-Star Challenege, Concord, N.C. May 29 - Coca-Cola 600 Concord N.C.

May 29 — Coca-Cola Book, Concord, N.C. June 5 — MBNA America 400, Dover, Del. June 12 — Pocono 500, Long Pond, Pa. June 19 — Michigan 400, Brooklyn, Mich. June 26 — Dodge/Save Mart 350, Sonom Calif. alif. July 2 — Pepsi 400, Daytona Beach, Fla. July 10 — Chicagoland 400, Joliet, Ill. July 110 — Chicagoland 400, Joliet, Ill. July 17 — New England 300, Loudon, N.H. July 24 — Pennsylvania 500, Long Pond, Pa. Aug. 7 — Brickyard 400, Indianapolis. Aug. 14 — Sirius at The Glen, Watkins Glen,

. ug. 21 — GFS Marketplace 400, Brooklyn, nich. Aug. 27 — Sharpie 500, Bristol, Tenn. Sept. 4 — California 500, Fontana, Calif. Sept. 10 — Chevy Rock & Roll 400, Rich

Sept. 10 — Chevy Rock & Roll 400, Ri-mond, Va.

Sept. 25 — MBNA 400, Dover. Del.

Oct. 2 — UAW-Ford 500, Talladega, Ala.

Oct. 9 — Banquet 400, Kansas City, Kan.

Oct. 15 — UAW-GM Quality 500, Conco.

N.C.

N.C. Oct. 23 — Subway 500, Martinsville, Va. Oct. 30 — Bass Pro Shops MBNA 400, Hampton, Ga. on, Ga.

Nov. 6 — Dickies 500, Fort Worth, Texas.

Nov. 13 — Checker Auto Parts 500, Avoale, Ariz.

Nov. 20 — Ford 400, Homestead, Fla.

Driver standings

1. Kurt Busch3
2. Jimmie Johnson3
3. Mark Martin3
4. Carl Edwards2
5. Greg Biffle2
6. Elliott Sadler2
7. Tony Stewart
8. Rusty Wallace2
9. Sterling Marlin2

Deals Tuesday's transactions

10. Jeff Gordon

12. Ryan Newman.... 13. Kevin Harvick 14. Dale Earnhardt Jr 15. Mike Bliss

BASEBALL

KANSAS CIT ROYALS—ASSIGNED LEAGUE
KANSAS CIT ROYALS—ASSIGNED LEAGUE
Campbell LHP DAYALS—ASSIGNED LEAGUE
SA, RUP Billy Bucknown Lip M Moye and SB
Darren Fenster to their minor league camp.
National League
MILWAUKE BREWERS—ASSIGNED RHP Ben
(Bigglins, RHP Dennis Sarfate and NIF Enrique Cruz to their minor league camp.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Assigned C Neil
Walker, LHP Paul Maholm and C Carlos Mal-

Walker, LHP Paul Manolm and C Carlos Mai-donado to their minor league camp. SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS—Assigned RHP Brian Cooper, RHP Brandon Puffer, LHP Jack Taschner, INF Jamile Athas, INF Michael Cerv-anek, OF Doug Clark and OF Carlos Valerra-ma to their minor league camp. BASKETBALL National Basketball Association
ATLANTA HAWKS—Placed C Kevin Willis
on the injured list. Activated G Donta Smith
from the injured list.
Wilks from the injured list.
UTAH JAZZ—Placed C Jarron Collins on the
injured list.

jured list.

National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS—Agreed to terms
Ith S Robert Griffith on a two-year con-

/act. ATLANTA FALCONS—Signed P Toby Gowin. Re-sinned G-T Steve Herndon. Waived P cincinnati BENGALS—Agreed to terms with LB Marcus Wilkins on a one-year con-

tract.

CLEVELAND BROWNS—Signed QB Trent Dil-fer to a four-year contract and G Cosey Cole-man and DB Lewis Sanders to two-year conracts.

DALLAS COWBOYS—Re-signed RB Erik ickerstaff and TE Sean Ryan to one-year

contracts.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Signed CB Terry Cousin and OB Quinn Gray, KANSAS CITY CHIEFS—Signed LB Kendrell Bell to a seven-year contract.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Agreed to terms with CB Fred Smoot on a six-year contract.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Re-signed G Stephen Neal. repnen Neal. NEW YORK GIANTS—Signed PK Jay Feely. eleased RB Clarence Farmer.

Released RB Clarence Farmer.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS—Signed WR
Cedrick Wilson to a four-year contract.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Re-signed WR
JORY SALMWATON THE RESIDENCE WR
WEST OF THE RESIDENCE WR
WEST O Cedric Killings.

COLLEGE

BALL STATE—Named Stan Parrish, Eddie
Faulkner and Matt Schilling assistant foot-

Jall coaches.

EASTERN MICHIGAN—Announced it will not renew the contract of Jim Boone, men's asketball coach. MONTANA STATE-BILLINGS—Named Chris Brown baseball coach. NORTHERN ILLINOIS—Announced the re-tirement of Carol Hammerle, women's bas-

tirement of C ketball coach.

NORWICH—Announced the resignation of Mike Yesalonia, football coach, to take another job at the university. Named Shawn McIntyre interim football coach.

SIENA—Fired Rob Lanier, men's basketball

oach. SIMPSON, IOWA-Named Mike Wilson nen's soccer coach. SYRACUSE—Named Quentin Hillsman vomen's assistant basketball coach.

Golf

World ranking Through March 6

 Vilay Singh
 Ernie Els Phil Mickelson
Retief Goosen
Sergio Garcia
David Toms USA SA1 Spn USA 9.11 7.41 5.31 5.15 Padraig Harrir Adam Scott). Stewart Cink I. Mike Weir Ire Auss USAA Spin USAA Spin USAA Spin USA T&T USAA Jpin USAA Jpin USAA JusaA 12. Davis Love III 4.67 4.62 4.19 4.04 4.02 13. Stuart Appleby 14. Chris DiMarco 15. Miguel Angel Jimenez 16. Darren Clarke 16. Dafren Clafke
17. Chad Campbell
18. Luke Donald
19. Justin Leonard
20. Stephen Ames
21. Kenny Perry
22. Jim Furyk
23. Shigeki Maruyan
24. Lee Westwood
25. Todd Hamilton 3.68 3.45 3.22 3.19 3.12 3.09 3.06 3.00 25. Todd Hamilton 26. Nick O'Hern 27. Scott Verplank 28. Angel Cabrera 29. Choi Kyung-Ju 30. Thomas Bjorn 31. Tim Clark 32. Craig Parry 33. Jay Haas 34. Ian Poulter 35. Tom Lehman 36. Jerry Kelly 37. Robert Allenby 38. Peter Lonard 2.99 2.93 2.91 2.89 2.87 2.87 2.77 2.73 2.70 2.69 2.65 2.63 2.60 2.60 Robert And Peter Lonard Jonathan Kaye 39. Jonathan Kaye 40. Fred Couples 41. Charles Howell 42. Zach Johnson 43. Paul Casey 44. Rory Sabbatini 45. Steve Flesch 46. David Howell 47. Mark Hensby 48. Fredrik Jacobso 2.58 2.57 2.55 2.51

2.48 2.43 2.40 2.35 2.18 USA Eng Aus Swe

46. David Howell 47. Mark Hensby 48. Fredrik Jacobson 49. John Daly 50. Graeme McDowell

ARE YOU THE GUY WHO'S ON THE NCA'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SELECTION COMMITTEE? MILAR SHIPS -HOW DID YOU GET THIS NUMBER?



Big Unit not perfect vs. Braves

Randy Johnson's much-anticipated debut with the New York Yankees wasn't filled with awesome fastballs or knee-buckling sliders and no one seemed to mind

After all, he was acquired for October Mark Mulder's second outing for St. Louis was much more in line with what the Cardinals expected from their new No. 1 starter.

Johnson worked two innings Tuesday in an 8-2 loss to the Atlanta Braves at Kissimmee. Fla. He threw 36 pitches, 22 for strikes, and gave up a two-rup homer to old nemesis Chinper Jones in an uneven performance.

"It looked like his first spring outing," Jones said. "I don't think anybody in baseball expected him to come out blowing 97. A guy like Randy's got to get his feet under

him, just like the rest of us. He'll be on his game come Oct. 1." Johnson said he felt fine physically after

being scratched from his first scheduled start last week because of a tight left calf.

After opening with a strikeout, Johnson allowed a single to Brian Jordan and fell behind 2-0 to Jones before the Braves third baseman drove a 92 mph fastball over the left-field fence.

The Yankees didn't start pursuing Johnson last summer just to add a few victories during the regular season. Instead, they pushed to fi nally complete a drawn-out trade with Arizona in January because they needed an ace in the postseason.

And that's exactly why nobody sounded worried about the 41-year-old Johnson losing his first outing of spring training.

"I know I still have a long way to go to be ready for opening day," Johnson said. "But we'll get there."

In his second start since being acquired from Oakland in the offseason. Mulder allowed two runs and five hits in three innings of the Cardinals' 9-7 victory over the Washing-ton Nationals at Jupiter, Fla.

"I gave up a couple of runs but they were the only two bad pitches I made," said Mulder, who walked one and struck out three. "I felt much better. My delivery was better and I was locating the ball better."

It was a big improvement for Mulder, who lasted only one inning in his first spring train-ing appearance against the New York Mets. He needed 44 pitches to get three outs in that one, walking four and giving up a two-run sin

At Bradenton, Fla., NL Rookie of the Year Jason Bay injured his wrist diving for a fly ball in the Pittsburgh Pirates 10-4 loss to the Cincinnati Reds. Bay will miss at least a week with a bone bruise, but should be ready for

At Tucson, Ariz., Luis Gonzalez made his first start since elbow surgery last August, and pinch-hitter Tony Clark hit a three-run double in Arizona's 10-2 win over a split



Atlanta's Chipper Jones is congratulated by teammate Raul Mondesi after a two-run home run off the New York Yankees' Randy Johnson.

squad of Oakland Athletics. Gonzalez had a sacrifice fly in the fourth inning, but went 0-for-2 and is 0-for-7 this spring. He made a throw to home plate from left field in the third inning that was too late to get Dan Johnson

"My mechanics weren't quite what I've been working on." Gonzalez said. "Just getting the ball in was good enough for me. It's nice to be back out on the field

Red Sox 7, Twins (ss) 4: At Fort Myers, Fla., Matt Clement allowed a leadoff homer to Luis Rivas, then retired his final eight batters in his second spring training start since leaving the Chicago Cubs and signing a three-year, \$25.5 million contract with Boston David Ortiz hit a solo homer and Manny Ramirez added a two-run shot in the sixth for

Giants 5, Rangers 1: At Scottsdale, Ariz., Noah Lowry gave up one hit in three innings to lead San Francisco. Texas' Richard Hidalgo hit a home run in the seventh off Jason

Blue Jays (ss) 6, Phillies 4: At Dunedin, Fla., Toronto's Dave Bush and Philadelphia's Brett Myers pitched three innings apiece. Bush allowed one run and three hits, Myers one run on four hits

Blue Jays (ss) 2, Twins (ss) 1: At Fort

pick in 2001, went 2-for-2 with his fourth homer in four days and threw out a runner at home from left field. Kyle Lohse gave up two runs in two innings with two strikeouts for

Marlins 3, Dodgers 0: At Vero Beach, Fla., Wilson Alvarez made an impressive bid for a spot in the Los Angeles Dodgers' rotation, pitching two perfect innings. Kazuhisa Ishii, one of his competitors, gave up three unearned runs in two innings. In his second start for the Dodgers, Derek Lowe allowed three hits in four innings.

Mets 7, Orioles 4: At Port St. Lucie, Fla., Mike Piazza and David Wright had RBI doubles for New York, and Kris Benson allowed three hits and a run in three innings. Orioles second baseman Enrique Wilson went 3-for-4 with an RBI

Indians 21, Astros 4: At Kissimmee, Fla. Grady Sizemore, competing with former AL MVP Juan Gonzalez for a spot in Cleveland's outfield, led the Indians with five RBIs. Jeff Liefer went 3-for-3 with four RBIs and Josh Bard went 3-for-3 and scored four runs for the

Houston starter Dave Burba allowed six hits and eight runs before being chased with two outs in the bottom of the third.

Padres 18. Brewers (ss) 5: At Phoenix. John Knott hit a grand slam, Ryan Klesko had a two-run homer and Mark Loretta had two doubles among his three hits. Victor Santos vying for a spot in the Brewers' rotation, allowed seven hits and six 12/<ms-.%0.%60,%60>3 innings.

Geoff Jenkins homered twice for the Brewers and new teammate Carlos Lee also hom-

Athletics (ss) 6, Cubs (ss) 4: At Mesa, Ariz., Carlos Zambrano pitched three scoreless innings for the Cubs. Joe Blanton allowed two hits over three shutout innings for Oakland

Cubs (ss) 4, Royals 0: At Surprise, Ariz. Glendon Rusch gave up three hits in three scoreless innings against his former team Royals starter Runelvys Hernandez, who missed last season following surgery on his right elbow, allowed one run and four hits in three innings

Angels 11. Mariners (ss) 5: At Tempe. Ariz., Angels starter John Lackey was sidelined by a blister on his right index finger. Top prospect Ervin Santana stepped in and struck out five in two scoreless innings.

Rockies 6, White Sox 1: At Tuscon, Ariz. Jeff Francis threw three shutout innings and Darren Oliver, his competitor for the No. 5 spot in Colorado's rotation, allowed a run in his three innings. Todd Helton hit his first home run for the Rockies.

Mariners (ss) 8, Brewers (ss) 4: At Peoria Ariz., Jose Lopez hit a bases-loaded triple in the eighth inning and Benji Gil added a two-run homer. Prince Fielder, the Brewers' No. 1 draft pick in 2002, homered.



Barry Bonds might be a DH during spring training as he prepares for the start of the baseball season.

MLB asked to OK Bonds use as a DH

The Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. - Barry Bonds expects to be ready for San Francisco's season opener on April 5, and the Giants asked the commissioner's office for permission to use a designated hitter dur-ing spring training home games to ease him into the exhibition sea-

'I've never missed an opening day," Bonds said Tuesday.
"Being announced before your fans on opening day is great. The main thing down here is to be able to play nine innings consistently every day. That's recovery. tentry every day. Inar's recovery.
When you can play every game in
the major leagues for nine innings, that's recovery. Nobody is
ever ready to completely play on opening day. It's the Adrenalin rush for opening day.

Bonds had surgery on his right knee on Jan. 31 and when he arrived at spring training said he was unsure whether the knee would recover in time to play the opener. He has yet to play in an exhibition game

Whenever he's ready, he'll be in there," Giants manager Felipe Alou said. The Cincinnati Reds were

given permission last weekend to use a DH in five home games starting Thursday so that Ken Griffey Jr. can bat without play-ing the field. In spring training, the DH usually is used only at the home parks of American League

"After I read that the Reds had approached MLB on this issue and were granted approval, I de-cided to call MLB myself and ask that Barry be accorded the same privilege while he recovers from his knee surgery," Giants assis-tant general manager Ned Colletti said. "What MLB told me was that as long as we offered the visiting team the same opportunity to use a DH during one of our home games and contacted MLB before we do it, it would be OK.

"I can't image a team saying no this " Colletti said would have the same opportunity to give a batter at-bats using the

Nomo struggling in bid for job with Devil Rays BY FRED GOODALL and four hits, including a homer.

The Associated Press

LAKELAND Fla - Hideo Nomo's bid to make the Tampa Bay Devil Rays' starting rotation isn't going very well.

The 37-year-old right-hander allowed two two-run homers and a wind-blown triple Tuesday in his second spring outing. But manager Lou Piniella isn't drawing any conclusions

"Spring training is early," he said after Nomo's two-inning stint against the Detroit Tigers. "There's still plenty of time for de-terminations and plenty of games left for him to pitch better and bet-

Nomo struggled with command of his fast ball in the first inning, giving up homers to Craig Monroe and Brandon Inge and a triple to Vance Wilson before settling down to retire the side in order in the second.

The former NL rookie of the year allowed four hits and walked one. Four other Devil Rays pitchers - Seth McClung, Casey Fossum, Jorge Sosa and Frankin Nunez — held the Tigers to three hits over the last seven innings of a 12-4 victory

Nomo was not helped by a stiff

breeze blowing out to right field, but said through an interpreter that location of his fast ball was a bigger problem

"It was windy, but still my pitches were a little too high." he Nomo is one of nine candidates

for five spots in what figures to be a young, mostly inexperienced

starting rotation.

Piniella would like at least one veteran to earn a spot, and Nomo and left-hander Denny Neagle, also 37 and trying to come back from injury, will get every opportunity to prove they belong

Nomo also struggled in his first spring start, giving up two runs

in two innings of a loss to the Cincinnati Reds "I feel good about my physical condition, but I'm getting behind

the hitters and the pitches are too high," Nomo said. Piniella called Tuesday's per-

formance "so-so

"It was not an easy day to play, of an easy day to pitch," he said. not an easy day to pitch," he said.
"He got a couple of balls up. And with this wind here, when you get them up in the air they're going to go, and that's exactly what han-"But he's healthy and he's work-

ing hard. Hopefully the next time he pitches, it will be a better performance

Sluggers, Congress and a flight of fancy

he list of ballplayers invited to testify before Congress on the subject of steroids reads like a roster for "Home Run Derby

If this is a coincidence, so is the continued orbit of the earth around the sun

Mark McGwire, Jason Giambi, Sammy Sosa. Rafael Jim Litke Palmeiro Tho



yard times them and they're all on the House Government

Reform Committee's guest list for March 17 The lawmakers who drew it up were even thoughtful enough to ask Curt Schilling along to pitch.

To keep things light, they also asked MLB commissioner Bud Selig, union head Donald Fehr, executive vice president Sandy Alderson and San Diego general manager Kevin Towers to put in an appearance Without further ado, we pre-

Canseco & Co. invited to gabfest in the nation's capital

view the opening few minutes from that day's broadcast on

Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., committee chairman: "Gentlemen, let me welcome you on behalf of the

Selig: "Excuse me, congressman, isn't this a Hepplewhite mahogany table, circa 1810? I only ask because I'm a student of histo

ry, as you probably know, and ... " Davis: "Excuse me, commissioner. But we didn't call you down here to talk about history, except as it relates to steroids.'

Selig: "I'm a student of steroids, too. Not a very good one, I'm afraid, and not by choice, mind you. Everybody else around me seemed to know about 'juice,' or whatever they call it, so I tried to sit down and learn. Well, I still don't see what bulging muscles and a bad attitude has to do with home runs and acne, but my people assured me it's all related

"Even so, when I heard that leaked grand jury testimony about someplace called BALCO and the 'clear' and the 'cream.' I thought they were talking about 'Oil of Olay.' Even asked my wife

Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif.: Mr. Selig, we were inquiring about ..

Selig: "Steroid use, Right, Do you know I once commissioned a study of androstenedione? Yeah right after some snoopy reporter saw a bottle of it in Mr. McGwire's locker. Even hired some Harvard guys to do it. And you know what they found? You don't, huh? Well frankly, sir, neither do I. It was loaded with technical jargon and really depressing. I put the darned thing in a drawer and forgot about it. If you're really interested, I'll FedEx you a copy.

Or you could ask Don for his. Here Selig pauses and steals a glance at Fehr: "Unless, of course, he's already turned it into a fleet of paper airplanes."

Fehr: "What the commissioner is trying to say is that there isn't any steroid use by current major leaguers, thanks to the draconian tests we've instituted. All that advance notice had nothing to do with it. And even if there was, let's pretend there wasn't. It wasn't against the rules in place at the time. Bud is a student of history and he'll tell you there's no way to go back in time. At least

not yet. So leave the records alone, too. Period, case closed. Can I be excused?"

Davis: "Excuse me, Mr. Fehr. There appears to be a dissenting opinion. The chair recognizes Mr Canseco

Canseco (wearing a silk tank top, sunglasses and rising out of his seat): "You sayin' this body came naturally? You think I hit 462 homers eating chicken at every meal? But enough about singles hitters; let's talk about me. "I nicknamed myself, 'The God-father of Steroids.' Pretty cool,

no? And I personally injected steroids into the butt of at least one guy in this room. And I have it on good authority - somebody's second cousin told me or something like that - that more than a few others followed my instructions and did the same. I can't remember any more details, but they're all in my book, which just happens to be on top of The New Vork Times best seller list Only \$25.95. In fact, I'll be signing copies later this afternoon at .

Waxman: "All well and good, Mr. Canseco, But these hearings are for us, not you, to get some badly needed pub. Is there anybody who can talk about whether the use of steroids was widespread, as most of America pects, or confined to a handful of sluggers and a few dozen wannabes? Mr. Giambi, can you add anything?"

Giambi: "I'm sorry." Davis: "About what?" Giambi: "Can't say. Sorry."

Selig: "Actually, congressmen, let me say all of us in baseball were sorry. I mean, what would you have done? We blew up the season in 1994 and everybody was mad at us, and then baseballs start flying all over the place and next thing you know we've got a renaissance on our hands. Hoo-bah!

"Remember Heather Locklean in that 'Chicks Dig the Long Ball' commercial? I loved her in that. I wasn't sorry one bit about that spot. But where was I? The renaissance. Right. Money is rolling in, everybody is getting a new stadium or angling for one, so who am I to stop the parade? I'll admit, I saw some guys that looked like Charles Atlas but I figured maybe the horizontal hold on the TV was bad. Even asked my wife

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press, Write to him at jlitke@ap.org

Ankiel, unable to make pitches, will try hitting them

JUPITER, Fla. - Rick Ankiel is ending a pitching career derailed by injuries and record wildness and will try to make the St. Louis Cardinals' roster as an out-

Ankiel, 25, had yet to appear in a spring training game as he tried to revive a career interrupted by control problems and reconstruc tive elbow surgery. He was to have pitched in a "B" game Wednesday, but it was rained out



Ankiel said he's been thinking of making the switch since he left winter ball in Puerto Rico after feel-

ing a twinge in his elbow. He was impressive his first time throwing to hitters this spring, but the outings since then have been erratic.

"This whole time, the frustra-tion that built up, it seems like it was really eroding my spirit and starting to affect my personality off the field as well." Ankiel said. "It just became apparent that it was time for me to move on and pursue becoming an outfielder. I feel relieved now and I'm happy to move on.'

Ankiel is a career .207 hitter (18-for-87) in the majors, with two homers, a double, a triple and nine RBIs. He was an occasional DH for the Cardinals' rookie league team in Johnson City, Tenn., in 2001, hitting 10 homers.

"I've always enjoyed playing outfield and I've definitely enjoyed hitting," Ankiel said.
"Hopefully, I can pick up as

much as I can being around some of these guys and spending more time with them in the cage



Rick Ankiel has decided to end his injury- and wildness-plagued pitching career with St. Louis and will try to make the club as an outfielder.

Manager Tony La Russa and general manager Walt Jocketty had been aware for a few days that Ankiel was considering giving up pitching. Ankiel said they "understood and wished me

"We are fully supportive of Rick's decision to convert to an everyday outfielder," Jocketty said. "Rick will continue to train with the major league club this spring. and we look forward to seeing his development as a full-time batter and outfielder.'

Pitching coach Dave Duncan said he didn't know of the decision until Wednesday morning "I've been trying to get him ready to nitch '

Center fielder Jim Edmonds sympathized with Ankiel's deci-"It can't be any more difficult than what he's been going through. He's been through a lot." Ankiel sat out 2002 with a

most of the 2003 and 2004 seasons after reconstructive elbow surgery The left-hander made it to the

major leagues at age 19 and was 11-7 with a 3.50 ERA with 194 strikeouts in 175 innings in 2000 but developed record-setting wildness in the playoffs. In the postseason opener against Atlanta, he threw five wild pitches in the first inning, the most by a major league pitcher since 1890, and had nine wild nitches in four innings during the postseason.

He went 1-2 with a 7.13 ERA in six starts for the Cardinals in 2001 walking 25 in 24 innings then was sent to the minors. He didn't return until last Sept. 7 and made five late-season starts going 1-0 with a 5.40 ERA in 10 in-

Red Sox seek elbow room

BOSTON - The Boston Red Sox are negotiating to buy three small properties near Kenmore Square in a hid to secure snace for long-term growth in the neighborhood surrounding Fenway

The properties - a taxi garage, a McDonald's restaurant and the WBCN radio studios — would allow the Red Sox to continue shifting their offices from the cramped, 93-year-old stadium and allow more room for fans. But there are no immediate plans for major changes to the properties, vice president Janet Marie Smith said Tuesday.

'We have been looking for anything in the area that might help us with our space problems," said Smith, architect of Fenway Park's recent renovations. "It surprised gle property."

Team owners have refused to say whether they've made a final decision on staying in Fenway Park, Major League Baseball's oldest and smallest ballpark. But all indications are the Red Soy will stay.

Since buying the team in 2002, the Red owners have added seats and upgraded the stadium. Last year, Boston brought home its first World Series title in 86

Reds' limited owners selling

CINCINNATI — Three of the Cincinnati Reds' owners confirmed Tuesday that they are trying to sell their limited shares in the club, but local businessman Carl Lindner will remain in control of baseball's first professional franchise.

Lindner led an ownership group that bought the ballclub from Marge Schott in 1999 for \$67 million. He and limited partner William Reik Jr. intend to hold their shares and retain control of the team.

'I enjoy my ownership in the Reds and am looking forward to a great 2005 season," Lindner said in a statement.

Local businessman George Strike, the trust for Louise Nipnert - the widow of former Reds owner Louis Nippert — and the Gannett Co. plan to sell their shares, which represent 51.5 percent of the team. Under the ownership agreement, Lindner and Reik will have the option of matching any offer for the shares, giving them a chance to acquire a larger portion of the club.

NBA scoreboard

Fastern Conference

Atlantic Division					
		W	L	Pct	GB
Boston		31	29	.517	-
Philadelphia		29	32	.475	21/2
New York		26	34	.433	5
New Jersey		26	35	426	51/2
Toronto		25	35	.417	6
S .	outheast D	ivis	ion		
Miami		46	16	.742	-
Washington		33	26	.559	111/2
Orlando		31	28	.525	131/2
Charlotte		12	46	.207	32
Δtlanta		10	49	169	341/5
Central Division					
Detroit		36	22	.621	_
Cleveland		32	27	.542	41/2
Chicago		30	27	.526	51/2
Indiana		30	30	.500	7
Milwaukee		25	34	.424	111/2
mimuuncc					11/1

Western Conference						
Southwest Division						
	w	L	Pct	GB		
San Antonio Dallas	47	13	.783			
		20	.661	71/2		
Houston		25		12		
Memphis		26		13		
New Orleans		46	.220	331/2		
Northwe						
Seattle	41	18	.695	-		
Denver	31	29	.517	101/2		
Minnesota		30	.508	11		
Portland	22	36		181/2		
Utah		40	.333	211/2		
Pacific Division						
Phoenix			.767	-		
Sacramento	38		.613	9		
L.A. Lakers	30	29	.508	151/2		
L.A. Clippers		34	.443	191/2		
Golden State	19		.317	27		
Tuesday's games						
Golden State 104, P	hiladelı	ohia	85			

монеть заких 104, Philadelphia & Cleveland 111, Orlando 92 New York 93, Washington 83 Milwaukee 105, Atlanta 101 Minnesota 100, Charlotte 97 Indiana 89, Utah 83 Sacramento 85, Memphis & Houston 97, Seattle 95 LA. Clippers 110, LA. Lakers 101 Orlando at 84 Members 100, Charlotte 104, Charlotte 105, Memphis & Charlotte 105, Seattle 95 LA. Clippers 110, LA. Lakers 101 Orlando at 64 Members 105, Members 106, Lakers 101 Orlando at 64 Members 106, Members 106,

Atlanta at Boston
Golden State at Detroit
Golden State at Detroit
Golden State at Dev Orleans
San Antonio at Phoenix
Chicago at Portland
Thursday's games
Minnesota at Miami
LA. Lakers at Dallas
Atlanta at Toroicalephia
Atlanta at Toroicalephia
Minnesota at Minnesota Minnesota

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olden State at Indiana Detroit at Boston
Dallas at Milwaukee
Houston at Phoenix

Cavaliers 111, Magic 92

ORLANDO - Turkoglu 4-13 2-3 11, Howard
1-3 1-2 3, Cato 4-8 2-2 10, Francis 8-16 4-5 21,
Nelson 7-12 2-4 17, Augmon 2-6 2-3 6, Battle
2-6 2-2 6, Garrity 1-2 0-0 3, Stevenson 2-9 1-2
5, B.Hunter 2-3 3-4 7, Kasun 1-3 1-2 3. Totals
34-81 20-29 92.
CLEVELAND - James 9-22 3-4 23, Gooden
10-13 3-5 23, Ilgauskas 7-11 4-6 18, McInnis
5-9 0-0 13, Newble 3-7 2-2 9, Traylor 1-3 0-0 2,
Snow 4-4 0-0 8, Varejao 2-3 2-4 6, Welsch 1-5
0-0 2, Harris 0-0 0-0 0, Pavlovic 2-7 0-0 5, Diop

Warriors 104, 76ers 85

Knicks 93, Wizards 83

WASHINGTON Brown 6.8 2-4.2, leffries 3-71.27, flasyood 4-52-51, Arenas 5-24.5-71.27, flasyood 4-52-51, Arenas 5-24.5-71.27, flasyood 4-52-51, Arenas 5-24.5-71.27, flas 6-21.27, flas 6-2.27, flas 6-2.2

21 19 23 20-83 26 22 23 22-93 New York. 22 22 22—23. Three-Point Goals—Washington 3-16 (Arenas 2-8, Hughes 1-4, Dixon 0-1, Jeffries C-1, Blake 0-2), New York 9-20 (Crawdroff 5-10, Hardway 2-3, Marbury 2-5, T.Thomas 0-1), September 2-5, Grand 11), New York 5-5 (K.Thomas 11), Assists—Washington 10 (Grown, Jeffres, Arenas, Blake 2), New York 24 (Marbury 10), Total Fouls—Washington 20, New York 31, A—327-36 (13)763).

Bucks 105. Hawks 101

ATLANTA — Harrington 9-71 1-2 19, 205.5mith 3-6 0-6 E. Mezie 6-5 2-3 14. Chil-205.5mith 3-6 0-6 E. Mezie 6-5 2-3 14. Chil-20-72 Drobnia 4-10-2 310. Cquilotta 3-8 0-6 6, D.5mith 0-2 2-2 2, Stewart 0-0 0-00, Ivey 0-6 2-2 7. Totals 4-38 12-7 101. E-12 MILWARKET — MASSON 12-2 2-2 2-4 6, Read 0-4 0-0, Pachulia 0-1 0-0, Kukoc 1-4 2-5, 2-72-2 2-1, Milliams 9-13-2 2-2 2-5 Krickland 0-4 0-0, Pachulia 0-1 0-0, Kukoc 1-4 2-5, Free 4-7-2 3.10. Chotals 3-6-76 2-3-105.

The state of the s

Timberwolves 102, Bobcats 97 CHARLOTTE — Wallace 4-10 3-7 11, Okafor 5-11 3-4 13, Brezec 7-8 6-8 20, Hart 5-15 4-5 14, Bogans 6-14 0-0 14, Ely 0-3 0-0, Napono 6-9 1-2 15, Smith 0-2 0-0, Allen 3-6 0-0 6, Alex-ander 1-5-0-2, Carroll 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 36-17-26 97. MINNESOTA — Sprewell 9-19 2-2 21, Gar-MINNESOTA — Sprewell 9-19 2-2 21, Gar-

7-26 97. MINNESOTA — Sprewell 9-19 2-2 21, Gar-ett 12-25 6-6 30, Thomas 1-2 2-2 4, Hassell 7-2-3 8, Hudson 1-7 0-0 2, Madsen 1-1 0-2 2, zczerbiak 2-8 11-11 15, Carter 3-6 1-1 7, Hol-erg 3-4 2-2 9, Johnson 2-2 0-0 4. Totals 37-81

26-29 102.	
Charlotte	27 26 14 30- 97
Minnesota	17 25 31 29-102
Three-Point Goals-	
(Kapono 2-2, Bogans 2-4,	Hart 0-1, Alexander
0-1, Wallace 0-2), Minn	esota 2-9 (Holberg
1-1, Sprewell 1-3, Szczer	
Hudson 0-3). Fouled Out-	
Charlotte 58 (Brezec 12),	Minnesota 46 (Gar-
nett 15). Assists-Charlot	tte 22 (Hart 10), Min-
nesota 27 (Carter 9). Tot	al Fouls-Charlotte
21, Minnesota 24. Techni	icals-Bogans, Wal-
lace, Charlotte coach Bio	kerstaff. A-16,333.

Spurs 90. Nets 74

NEW JERSEY — Carter 4-18 5-6 13, Collins 2-11 3-3 7, Krstic 8-10 3-5 19, Vaughn 2-40-0 5, Kldd 5-15 2-4 14, Best 0-3 0-0 0, Scalabrine 2-5 2-3 6, Buford 2-12 3-4 7, Smith 0-0 0-0 0, Mer-cer 1-3 1-2 3, Planinic 0-0 0-0 0

15-27 74 SAN MATIONIC 0-0 0-0 0. Todas 2-0-0 15-27 74 SAN ANTONIO — Bowen 3-4 0-0 8, Duncan 8-14 3-6 19, Nesterovic 1-3 0-0 2, Parker 2-6 6-11 10, Ginobil 2-8-2-2 6, De.Brown 9-12 2-6 22, Massenburg 2-5 1-2 5, Barry 1-7 2-4 4, Horry 4-8 2-2 12, Udrih 1-4 0-2 2, Wilks 0-1 0-0 0. Todais 3-7 21 8-35 90.

San Antonio
Three-Point Goals—New Jersey 3-14 (Ridd
2-4, Vaugin 1-1, Best 0-1, Carter 0-4, Burlord
2-4, Vaugin 1-1, Best 0-1, Carter 0-4, Burlord
DeBrown 2-4, Wilkis 0-1, Ginobil 0-3, Barry
0-5), Fouled Out-Collins, Kristic, Rebound
Nassistant New Jersey 17 (Jod
Che Brown 1-4, Michael 1-4, Berry 17 (Jod
Che Brown 1-4, Berry 1-4, Berry 17 (Jod
Che Brown 1-4, Berry 1-4,

Pacers 89, Jazz 83

NDIANA – Jackson 11-18 5-5 30, Foster 1-4 4-66, Davis 4-50-0 8, Johnson 4-9 4-4 13, Miller 7-16 7-7 24, LJones 0-2 0-0 0, Croshere 1-4 2-2 4, Harrison 0-0 0-0 0, Gill 0-3 2-2 2, Pollard 1-1 0-0 2, F. Jones 0-2 0-0 0, Totals 29-64 24-26 99. UTAH – Kirlienko 7-14 0-0 16, Harpring 5-11

Utah 16 26 22 19—83 Three-Point Goals—Indiana 7-19 (Jacksor 3-6, Miller 3-7, Johnson 1-1, F.Jones 0-1 Croshere 0-2, Gill 0-2), Utah 5-14 (Kirilenko Croshere 0-2, Gill 0-2), Utah 5-14 (Kirlienko 2-5, McLeod 2-6l, Aepring 1-1, Bell 0-1, Snyder 0-1), Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Indiana 46 (Foster, Davis 10), Utah 45 (Okur 12), Assists—Indiana 16 (Johnson 9), Utah 18 (McLeod 6), Total Fouls—Indiana 32, Utah 2. Technical—Utah Defensive Three Second. A—18,452 (19,911).

Rockets 97. Sonics 95

HOUSTON — Howard 3-10 4-4 10, McGrady 14-27 3-5 35, Yao 9-15 4-4 22, M.James 5-12 2-2 13, Wesley 2-6 1-2 5, Barry 5-7 0-0 11, Mutom-00-0 1-2 1, Bowen 0-0 0-0 0, Padgett 0-1 0-0 bo 0-0 1-2 1, Bowen 0-0 0-0 0, Padgett 0-1 0-0 O Totals 38-78 15-19 97. SEATILE — Evans 3-3 1-1 7, Lewis 9-18 2-2 G, Jjames 1-5 1-2 3, Allen 13-25 1-2 32, Rid-nour 5-12 3-3 14, Daniels 0-1 0-0 0, Radmanov-ica 3-62-2 9, Fortson 0-1 2-2 2, Collison 1-3 0-0 2, Potapenko 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-74 12-14 95. Houston

21 29 22 25-97 33 26 6 30-95 Three-Point Goals—Houston 6-15 (McGrady 4-10, Barry 1-1, Marmes 1-3, Wes-iey 0-1), Seattle 13-25 (Lewis 6-11, Allen 5-8, Ridnour 1-2, Radmanovic 1-3, Daniels 0-1), Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Houston 44 (Howard, McGrady 8), Seattle 41 (Evans 8), Assists—Houston 21 (McGrady 5), Seattle 21 (Ridnour 12), Total Fouls—Houston 20, Seat-11 (Entholab)—Total Fouls—Houston 20, Seat-Second. A—11,072 (17,072).

Kings 85. Grizzlies 82

Mings 85, tirizziles o.z MEMPHIS - Cardinal 5-6.3 15, Battler 3-10 1-27, Wright 5-11 1-111, MMIller 4-90-99, Wil-liams 3-8-11.7, Posey 5-14-0-011, Watson 4-9 1-29, Humphrey 4-80-8, Tsakalidis 1-20-0.2, Emmet 11-21, Totals 3-79-98-18-2, 4-51, Songaila 5-14-0-0-10, Skrinner 27, 5-89, Evans 4-11 0-2.8, Bibby 9-22-6-5-2, Williamson 27-4 4-8, Martin 2-2, 0-0, 4, Ostertag 6-1 1-2 1, House 0-1, 0-0, Totals 3-0-85-27-85.

Memphis 25 1-09.0 (1982)

Memphis 25 17 16 28 17-82

Sacramento 12 72 22 11-85

Three-Point Goals—Memphis 4-18 (Cardinal 2-2, MMiller 1-4, Posey 1-5, Battler 0-2, Watson 0-2, Milliams 0-3), Sacramento 5-14

(Stojakovic 3-8, Bibby 2-4, Evans 0-2), Fouled Out–None, Rebounds—Memphis 48 (MMiller 8), Sacramento 5-9 (Evans 14), Assists—Memphis 18 (Cardinal 6), Sacramento 1818 Sists—Memphis 18 (Cardinal 6), Sacrament 16 (Bibby 5). Total Fouls—Memphis 22, Sacra mento 14. Technical—Sacramento Defensive Three Second. A—17.317 (17.317).

Clippers 110, Lakers 101

Lippers 1.10, Lakers 1.01

L. CUPPERS — Simmons 6.15 3.3 16, gette 9-1 15-23 3, gette 9-1

kins 1-3, Odom 1-4, Walton 0-1), Fouled Out--None, Rebounds-LA. Clippers 43 (Brand 15), LA. Lakers 40 (Jones 8), Assists-LA. Clip-pers 26 (Magnette, Brunson 7), LA. Lakers 17 (Atkins 6), Total Fouls-LA. Clippers 18, LA. Lakers 22, Technicals-Bryant, Odom. Eject-ed-Odom. A-18,225, (18,997).

Through March 8 Scoring						
	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG	
lverson, Phil.	55	553	487	1664	30.3	
Bryant, LAL	45	389	423	1277	28.4	
Nowitzki, Dall.	56	495	449	1508	26.9	
Stoudemire, Phoe.	60	568	423	1559	26.0	
McGrady, Hou.	57	517	318	1466	25.7	
James, Clev.	57	542	312	1452	25.5	
Arenas, Wash,	57	466	375	1450	25.4	
Allen, Sea.	57	467	294	1373	24.1	
Rehounds						
	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG	
Garnett, Minn.	61	184	650	834	13.7	
B. Wallace, Det.	50	190	405	595	11.9	

Marion, Phoe.

60 168 487 655 10.9 50 185 356 541 10.8

Webber struggling to fit in with 76ers

When Philadelphia acquired Chris Webber on the eve of the trading deadline two weeks ago, he was expected to turn the 76ers into serious contenders for the Eastern Conference title

Seven games later, Webber is unhappy with his playing time and getting booed by Philadel-

For the third straight game, Webber was basically a non-fac-tor in the 76ers' 104-85 loss to Golden State on Tuesday night. The five-time All-Star sat out long stretches, including the last 4:38 of the third quarter, and finished with eight points on 3-for-12 shooting in 30 minutes.

Webber was booed a few times during the game, only about a week and a half since he was introduced to thunderous applause during his home debut. Fans honed after an errant bounce pass went out of bounds and again when he came back into the game about two minutes into the fourth quarter.

quarter.
"Obviously, C-Webb sees what's going on and it can only get worse," Philadelphia's Allen Iverson said. "It's not his fault. It's all our fault. He'll just have to

deal with it." Before the game, Webber said he was used to negativity and controversy surrounding him wherever he plays. He said he would like to make this situation work. but was tired already of answer ing questions about how well he'll

fit in "I want to make the best of the rest of the time I have here," he said, "I'm still a great player, I'm not going to ever get used to playing 27 minutes a game. It's some thing we'll address after the season. Right now our goal is to make the playoffs.

"I thought I was to coming into a situation where I would be utilized as the player that I was.

Webber averaged 21.3 points and 9.7 rebounds in 46 games with the Sacramento Kings, but is down to 14.4 points and 8.0 rebounds with the 76ers. After averaging 36.3 minutes for Sacramento, Webber reached 30 minutes for the first time in three games.

He met with coach Jim O'Brien on Monday about his lack of playing time.

"This is Philadelphia, the tough-est place in the world." said Iverson, who scored 33 points with a franchise-record 12 turnovers. "I told him what to expect. I let him know they would expect him to be like the Chris Webber he was.

Webber failed to reach double digits in scoring for only the second time this season, and the first since getting six points against San Antonio on Jan. 23. He was out of the locker room before it opened and not available for postgame comments. O'Brien defended Webber and blamed the loss on fatigue and poor defense.

"I believe Chris is a very confident guy and will find his stride here real soon," O'Brien said.

Cavaliers 111, Magic 92: At Cleveland, LeBron James scored 23 points and Drew Gooden had



23 in his return to the starting line up as the Cavaliers snapped a six-game losing streak. James added eight assists and seven rebounds in 40 minutes and Gooden finished 10-for-13 from the field

Knicks 93, Wizards 83: At New York, the Knicks improved to 5-1 since the trade deadline, getting 19 points from Jamal Crawford and solid all-around contributions from several play-Crawford also had six assists

and six rebounds, Kurt Thomas added 15 points, 11 rebounds and four assists, and Stephon Marbury had 14 points, 10 assists and four rebounds.

Bucks 105. Hawks 101: Mo Williams had 22 points and 10 assists and Desmond Mason also scored 22 points to lead the Bucks. Williams was 9-for-13 from the field, matching a career scoring high.

Atlanta lost its 22nd straight on the road and 12th in a row over-

Timberwolves 102. Bobcats 97: At Minneapolis, Kevin Garnett scored 22 of his 30 points in the second half, preventing the Timberwolves from being swept by the expansion Bobcats.

Spurs 90, Nets 74: At San Antonio, Tim Duncan made a quick return to the lineup after leaving his last game with an injury, and had 19 points and eight rebounds. The Nets hit just four of their first 25 shots.

Pacers 89, Jazz 83: Stephen Jackson scored 30 points and visit-ing Indiana rallied after blowing a 25-point lead. Reggie Miller finished with 24 points in his final game at Utah, which nearly turned into an embarrassing loss.

Kings 85. Grizzlies 82: Mike Bibby's long three-pointer as time expired was upheld on a controversial video review and the Kings got their 14th straight home victory against the Griz-

Peja Stojakovic's inbounds pass with 1.4 seconds left was tipped by James Posey, but the clock didn't start until Bibby grabbed the ball, turned and hit an amazing three-pointer from several feet behind the line

Rockets 97, SuperSonics 95: At Seattle, Tracy McGrady had 35 points and Yao Ming 22, including 16 in the second half. Houston outscored the Sonics 22-6 in the third period, with those six points setting franchise records for both

Clippers 110, Lakers 101: Corey Maggette scored 30 points, Elton Brand had 22 points and 15 rebounds and the Clippers beat the Lakers despite Kobe Bryant's 41 points.

Bobby Simmons added 16 points, Chris Kaman scored 12 and Rick Brunson had 10 for the Clippers, who won for just the fourth time in 15 games.

St. Mary's hopes 25 victories, strong WCC is enough

The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. - Saint Mary's players will be closely monitoring confer-ence tournaments this week as they practice with the hope of being selected for the NCAA tournament.

The Gaels (25-8) have made a strong case to earn their first NCAA berth in eight seasons, but after losing in the West Coast Conference tournament championship to No. 11 Gonzaga, they must wait until Sun-day to learn their postseason fate.

The Bulldogs locked up their seventh straight NCAA bid with a 80-67 victory over Saint Mary's on Monday night

America Fast

Championship Saturday, March 12 ern at Vermont

Atlantic Coast

Thursday, March 10 Maryland vs. Clemson North Carolina St. vs. Florida St. Miami vs. Virginia Friday, March 11 North Carolina vs. Maryland/Clemson

Virginia Tech vs. Georgia Tech Wake Forest vs. N.C. State/Florida St. Duke vs. Miami/Virginia Saturday, March 12

Atlantic Sun

Atlantic 10

Ritamite: 10

Richmond vs. Rhode Island
Islandsand vs. Rhode Island
Islandsand vs. Rhode Island
Islandsand vs. Rhode Island
Islandsand vs. Rhode Island
Rodrad vs. St. Bonaventure
Dayton vs. St. Bonaventure
Sairt Josephan

Big East

Big EaST

West Virginia vs. Providence
Notice Dame vs. Providence
Notice Dame vs. Rutgers
Notice Dame vs. Rutgers

Quarterfinals

Boston Collective St. Rutgers
Villanova vs. Pittsburgh Impinia/Providence
Villanova vs. Pittsburgh Connecticut vs. Georgetown/Seton Hall
Syracuse vs. Notre Dame/Rutgers

Semifinals

Saturday, March 12

Big Sky

Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
Championship

nda Island

Championship Saturday, March 5 Central Florida 63, Gardner-Webb 54

Semifinals
Sunday, March 13

Championshi

ment," Gaels coach Randy Bennett said. "I hope we're in it. I think we're in it. Where we play and who we play doesn't matter. I think we're a good enough team to win some games in the tournament. Our guvs have done a really great job continuing to elevate the program."

They know that this is their best chance to make a tournament run, too. The Gaels lose four senior starters, including leading scorer Paul Marigney and fearless point guard E.J. Rowland, from a team that has won 25 games and finished second to Gonzaga in the much-improved WCC. And job openings elsewhere this offseason

"Who knows?" athletic director Carl Clann said when asked about his program's NCAA chances. "We'll be watching he show on Sunday."

The WCC was stronger than ever this year, gaining national attention with big wins against nationally ranked opponents Santa Clara shocked No. 2 North Carolina in November, and San Francisco is one of two teams to beat 18th-ranked Pacific The WCC reached its highest ranking of

seventh in the conference RPI standings behind the six power leagues. The Gaels hope all that is enough

"You can never be overconfident but I think we should get in." Rowland said. "We have 25 wins. We're the second-best team in the WCC, which is a tough conference. We should be in. I think we're a better team than a lot of guys who are on the bubble.'

Saint Mary's split two regular-season meetings with Gonzaga.

'Getting a win against Gonzaga helps. said junior forward Daniel Kickert, who scored 27 points Monday. "We had a pretty tough schedule — 25 wins is a lot of wins. I think it will help our case. It's not like we went out on a really bad note. I think we proved to people we're in contention for an NCAA berth.

Conference tournaments

Big West

Wednesday, March 9
UC Irvine vs. Idaho
Long Beach State vs. UC Santa Barbara
Thursday, March 10
Cal Fullerton vs. lower-seeded winner orthridge vs. higher-seeded winner Friday, March 11

Semifinals Saturday, March 12

Houston vs. South Florida
Thursday, March 10
Louisville vs. TCU/Marquette
Ala-Birmingham vs. DePaul/Tulane
Charlotte vs. Memphis/Saint Louis
Cincinnati vs. Houston/South Florida
Friday, March 11

Horizon League

Metro Atlantic

Tuesday, March 8
Montana 79, Montana St. 67
Weber St. 71, Portland St. 61
Wednesday, March 9
Championship
Montana vs. Weber St. Monday, March 7 Oral Roberts 80, IUPU-Indianapolis 69 Oakland, Mich. 56, Chicago State 53

Big South

Championship Saturday, March 5 Winthrop 68, Charleston Southe

Big Ten

Thursday, March 10 Northwestern vs. Michigan Iowa vs. Purdue lowa vs. Purdue
Ohio State vs. Penn State
Friday, March 11

Friday, March 11
Illinois vs. Northwestern/Michigan
Minnesota vs. Indiana
Michigan State vs. Iowa/Purdue
Wisconsin vs. Ohio State/Penn State
Saturday, March 12
Semifinals

Semifinals Sunday, March 13 Championship

Big 12

Thursday, March 10 Missouri vs. Nebraska

Iowa State vs. Baylor Texas A&M vs. Kansas State Texas vs. Colorado
Friday, March 11
Oklahoma vs. Missouri/Nebra Texas Tech vs. Iowa State/Baylor Kansas vs. Texas A&M/Kansas State Oklahoma State vs. Texas/Colorado Saturday, March 12 Semifinals

Sunday, March 13 Championship

Colonial Athletic

Championship Monday, March 7 Old Dominion 73, Va. Common

Conference USA

Wednesday, March 9 Texas Christian vs. Marquette DePaul vs. Tulane Memphis vs. Saint Louis

Saturday, March 12

Championship Tuesday, March 8 Wis. Milwaukee 59. Detvoit 50

Mid-American

Monday, March 7 Kent State 91, Central Michiga

nen: state 91, Central Michigan Akron 78, Eastern Michigan 66 Buffalo 73, Northern Illinois 66 Bowling Green 75, Ball State 73 Ohio 72, Marshall 66 Thursday, March 10 Toledo vs. Buffalo

W. Michigan vs. Akron Miami (Ohio) vs. Bowling Green Ohio vs. Kent State Friday, March 11 Saturday, March 12 Championship

Mid-Continent

Mid-Eastern Athletic Tuesday, March 8

Bethune-Cookman 76, North Caro Wednesday, March 9 Delaware St. vs. Bethune-Cookn Hampton vs. Florida A&M Thursday, March 10 South Carolina St. vs. Norfolk St Coppin St. vs. Morgan State Friday, March 11

Semifinals Saturday, March 12

Missouri Valley

Championship Monday, March 7 Creighton 75, SW Missouri Sta

Mountain West

Thursday, March 10 Utah vs. Colorado St. UNLV vs. Wyoming

urst.v vs. Wyoming
New Mexico vs. Brigham Young
Air Force vs. San Diego St.
Friday, March 11
Utah/Colorado State vs. UNILY/Wyoming
New Mexico/BYU vs. Air Force/San Diego St.
Saturday, March 12
Championship

Northeast

Ohio Valley

Championship Saturday, March 5 Pac-10

Thursday, March 10 California s. California Oregon State on vs. Arizona State Stanford vs. Washington State Friday, March 11 Semifinals Saturday, March 12

Patriot

Championship Friday, March 11 Bucknell at Holy Cross

Southeastern

South Carolina vs. Mississippi Mississippi State vs. Georgia Arkansas vs. Tennesse vanderbilt vs. Auburn Friday, March 11 Alabama vs. South Carolina/Mis Florida vs. Mississippi State/es Kentucky vs. Arkansas/Tenness LSU vs. Vanderbilt/Auburn Saturdav. March 12

nderbilt/Auburn Saturday, March 12 Sunday, March 13 Championship

Southern

Championship Saturday, March 5 Chattanooga 65, N.C.-Greensbo

Southland

Tuesday, March 8
Lamar 91, Texas-San Antonio 83
Northwestern St. 81, Texas-Arlington
SE Louisland 75, Texas St. 58
Sam Houston St. 88, McNeese St. 70
Thursday, March 10
Semifinals
Lamar at Northwestern State

Southwestern Athletic

Thursday, March 10 mbling vs. Southern Thursday, March 10
nbling vs. Southern
ama St. vs. Prairie View A&M
issippi Valley vs. Jackson St.
ama A&M vs. Ark.-Pine Bluff
Friday, March 11

Semifinals Sunday, March 13

Sun Belt

Monday, March 7
Denver 77, Western Kentucky 68
Louisiana-Lafayette 80, Fla. Intern
Championship
Tuesday, March 8
Louisiana-Lafayette 88, Denver 69

West Coast

Championship Monday, March 7 Gonzaga 80, St. Mary's, Calif. 67

Western Athletic

Tuesday, March 8
Hawaii 72, San Jose State 48
Boise State 83, Tuisa 73
Thursday, March 10
Texas-El Paso vs. Hawaii
Rice vs. Southern Methodist
Fresno State vs. Louisiana Tech
Nevada vs. Boise State
Friday, March 11
Semifinals

Semifinals
Saturday, March 12
Championship

Annual rite of spring: basketball madness

BY ARMANDO SALGUERO The Miami Herald

MIAMI — Championship Week is here, which means 26 conference es from the Northeast to the Southland, from the Western Athletic to the Big East, will decide their tournament champions by Sunday.

That's Selection Sunday to fellow devotees of bracketology and RPI ratings.

By Sunday evening the field for The Dance will be set. Top seeds will be established, and folks from Seattle to Key West, interns to investment lawvers, will begin wading into their office NCAA pools.

Everyone becomes a college basketball expert this time of year; everyone thinks they can spot this year's Cinderella even though they haven't watched a game all season.

That's because these folks who didn't care about college basketball when the season began understand it is March now, and the in-

evitable is about to happen. They will soon contract the Madness.

College basketball changes everything in the sports world this week.

It's a time when Pacific is not only an ocean but a mid-major team with a real shot to reach the Sweet 16. It's a time when the Davidson Wildcats share the stage with the Kentucky Wildcats.

This week you will root for people you never knew were on the planet. You will watch Coppin State from the MEAC and wish them luck, not because their



Louisville's Taquan Dean has led the Cardinals in three-point shoot ing since he discovered he had mononucleosis two weeks ago.

Commentary

coach's name is Fang Mitchell, and you have root for a guy who answers to Fang ... But because earlier this season, Mitchell had a tumor removed from his thyroid area yet valiantly continued to point his team toward success. Championship Week lets us see

the fantastic and the freakish. We will see Louisville guard Taquan Dean, whose game has ac-

tually improved since he learned he has mononucleosis Off the court. Dean has shown understandable signs of fatigue, which is why teammate and roommate Francisco Garcia says Dean. is always going to bed early.

During timeouts, coach Rick Pitino jokes, "He's not contagious, but we just stay far away from him anyway."

That hasn't stopped Dean from finding his three-point stroke and leading the Cardinals in that department since learning he had the disease two weeks ago.

Then there's LSU freshman Glen "Big Baby" Davis, He is listed 6 feet 9 and 310 pounds, but everyone knows college programs

how to say this delicately - lie. Big Baby looks like he's pushing 350 pounds, which is perhaps the reason former Utah coach Rick Majerus, himself a walrus of a man, suggested Big Baby occa-

sionally pass on a couple of his three daily dinners. No word whether Big Baby took the advice, but watching him dribble-drive to the basket is amazing. He has scored in double figures nine times in the past 10 games, which might be understandable because who the heck is dumb enough to take the charge?

Championship Week and the tournament that follows is about what is right in college athletics.

Neither computers nor pollsters decide this championship. It will be won by athletes in head-to-head competition. And that gives teams that can win it all no advantage over teams that are happy to be part of it all.

Championship Week also offers a villain. As with all great theater, you can satisfy your sensibilities when the unfriendly, pompous, boor gets his comeuppance

And that's why you should watch Bobby Knight's games.

Milwaukee sees NCAA berth on its horizon

BY ARNIE STAPLETON The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE - The Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers finally got to cut down the nets, thanks to Adrian Tigert.

The senior forward's free throw with 4.2 seconds left gave the Panthers a 59-58 win over Detroit in the Horizon League championship game Tuesday night.

The Panthers didn't cut down the nets when they won the regular-season title at home, preferring to wait until winning the tournament title and the automatic NCAA bid that goes along with it.

"We saved it because we had a goal in mind," tournament MVP Joah Tucker said. "It feels good to finally cut the nets down. We savored the moment. It means something when you're older and you say, 'We won a conference championship.' But our goal was to get into the [NCAA] tournament

After reaching the NCAA tournament for the first time in 2003, the Panthers got ahead of themselves last year when they won the regular season and then lost the tournament title game to rival Illinois-Chicago, also at U.S. Cellular Arena

The Panthers (24-5) looked like they were blowing it again, trailing most of the night and missing 11 of 24 free throws, including the first of two by Tigert with 4.2 seconds remaining.

Milwaukee coach Bruce Pearl called timeout and instructed the rest of his starters to set up on defense while trying to calm Tigert

"I told him, 'One's as good as two. We just need one,' "Pearl explained. It worked

"I could tell he was confident he'd knock down the next one." Tucker said. Sure enough, Tigert stepped up to the

line with nothing but red shirts around him and calmly sank his second shot "It's nice to redeem myself," Tigert said

Despite the Panthers' efforts to keep the ball out of his hands, freshman Brandon Cotton, who had 21 points, brought the ball uncourt hounded the whole time by Boo Davis. He was off-target on a contested jumper that would have sent the Titans to the NCAA tournament at 15-15

Instead, the yellow-and-black-clad stu-dents stormed the court, something that was denied them a year ago.



Wisconsin-Milwaukee players celebrate as fans rush the court after beating Detroit 59-58 in the Horizon League championship on Tuesday,

Ed McCants' 18 points led the Panthers who held Detroit scoreless for the final 21/2 minutes to avoid losing the tournament title game at home for the second straight

Tucker added 15 points and Davis 12 for Milwaukee, which has won 17 of 18 and went 13-1 at home this season with its only loss coming to Detroit, a 78-68 setback Jan 3. Milwaukee avenged that loss 2½ weeks later with a 61-48 win at Detroit

The Titans, who went 0-13 this season when failing to score 60 points, were going for their first tournament title since 1999.

Detroit coach Perry Watson was bitter, criticizing the officiating, which he called inconsistent in the closing minutes.

"These things are discouraging. You want your guys to have a fair shot," Watson complained. "It's just tough when you have to look at your guys saying, 'Coach, I was fouled,' and it wasn't called. I guess I question the judgment on some of those

Cotton's 11 first-half points helped Detroit take a 30-24 lead at the break, and Muhammad Abdur-Rahim's basket to open the second half gave the Titans their biggest lead at 32-24. The Panthers responded with three straight three-pointers, two by McCants, the conference's player of the year, to go ahead 33-32. It was their first lead since 2-0.

McCants' two free throws with 10:22 remaining capped the Panthers' 17-4 surge and gave Milwaukee a 41-36 lead. But the Titans came back with nine straight points, taking a 45-41 lead on Cotton's two free throws with 7:11 left

The Panthers trailed until Tucker sank two free throws with 55 seconds left to tie it

Ragin' Cajuns get revenge, bid BY JAIME ARON The Associated Press

DENTON, Texas With strands of net behind their ears and Sun Belt tournament champion T-shirts over their jerseys, Lou-isiana-Lafayette's Ragin' Cajuns had good reason to celebrate. And making the NCAA tourna-

ment was only part of it. As thrilled as they were to make the NCAA field for the sec-

ond straight year, the Ragin' Cajuns were equally excited - and, in some ways, relieved - to do so at the expense of Denver.

With an 88-69 victory over Denver in the finals of the Sun Belt tournament Tuesday night, Louisiana-Lafayette avenged two losses earlier this season to the team that also ended its run of three straight division titles "We really wanted to face them

again," Ragin' Cajuns coach Robert Lee said. "We wanted to come out and make a statement that we were the best team.

Tiras Wade led the way, scoring 21 of his 30 points in the second half when Louisiana-Lafavette (20-10) turned a tie game into a rout. Denver (20-10) got within 70-63 with 5:28 left but the Ragin' Caiuns closed with an 18-6 run that included six free throws by

"The first two times we played them, we didn't play to the best of our ability," said Wade, who scored a tournament-record 82 points and was named its most outstanding player. "We believe we have the best five starters in the Sun Belt. If we didn't beat ourselves, we were confident we would get the win."

Although Denver missed a chance to make its first appearance in the NCAA Division I tournament, the Pioneers couldn't be too disappointed. Denver has only been in D-I since 1999 after spending 19 seasons in NAIA and

"It was an unbelievable year."

coach Terry Carroll said. "We accomplished things no one thought would do."

Rodney Billups led Denver with 16 points but had just three assists, half his season average. Yemi Nicholson had 14 points and nine rebounds and Erik Benzel scored 15.

"It was more about what Lafav ette did right than about what we did wrong," Carroll said. "They're an experienced, veteran team that's been in this situation before and that's a huge benefit." Wade's NCAA tournament ev-

eriences have been bittersweet. The past two years, he's had to watch his teammates play without being able to join them.

He missed last year's trip because he was sitting out the season after transferring from East Tennessee State. He played for ETSU the previous year when it made the NCAAs, but left the squad before the tournament.

"I finally got there. Finally!" Wade said. "It feels better than I thought it would feel."

Upstaged: At-large berth unlikely for Oral Roberts

KNOCKED FROM BACK PAGE

In the Mid-Continent final Scott scored 19 points and Marshall scored 18 for Oakland. The Golden Grizzlies were making their first appearance in the tour nament championship. And now, the 8-year-old Division I program will play in the NCAA tournament for the first time

Caleb Green scored 13 points and Tutt added 12 for the Golden Eagles (25-7), whose hopes for their first NCAA tournament appearance in 21 years were likely dashed. No Mid-Continent team has been an at-large selection to the NCAA tournament, but the Golden Eagles have an 81-63 win

against Georgetown on their ré-They just missed another impressive win, falling 69-68 at Indiana

"I don't think we have much of

a chance," Oral Roberts coach Scott Sutton said. "I'll be extreme-ly disappointed if we don't make the NIT. I think we deserve to con-

tinue to play." "I'm just numb," Oral Roberts guard Luke Spencer-Gardner said. "I'm not really feeling all that much. I'm just shocked. This

isn't the way it was meant to be." Oral Roberts used a 9-2 run to take a 44-43 lead, capped when Green took a pass from Tutt. whirled around Oakland's David Ritzema and scored.

After that, the lead changed five times and the teams were tied four times before Spencer-Gardner's two free throws put the Golden Eagles ahead 59-57 with 2:20 to play.

Scott hit one of two free throws to bring Oakland within a point, and Bluitt's answer at the other end left an opening for Oakland to

DODDS players invited to showcase skills

K-town coach holding tryouts for team going to AAU event

BY RUSTY BRYAN Stare and Strings

Kaiserslautern boys basketball coach Clint Robinson is calling out high school players in Europe who think they have what it takes

to play in college. Robinson will be holding tryouts for players he termed the "best of the best" on March 19-20 in Kaiserslautern, Germany, to select a team he has been invited to take to the Amateur Athletic Union Basketball's Super Showcase at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., in July

"We want a big turnout," Robinson said Tuesday. "I'm inviting anybody who thinks he or she is good enough to attend the try-

Robinson groups of Europe-based players to the States every summer to at-tend basketball camps, he said this tournament is different.

time players from Europe have ever invited to been anything like the AAU Summer Showcase," he

said. Robinson said the tryouts will offer tangible benefits even to players not selected

"We'll divide the players into four separate ... and

hold games. I guarantee every player who attends a game tape and game footage he or she can submit to college coaches," he

While there will be no stateside trip for girls who attend the tryouts. Robinson said he'd take tapes of their performances with

44It will provide them with the kind of

experience and exposure they need to advance to the next level.

Clint Robinson K-town coach

coaches attending People are always asking me

tapes,' he said. The best boys in the tryouts will participate in the

High School ready to play at 8 a.m. on March 19, he said. Doors showcase. will close at 8:30. Forty-eight teams Overnight accommodations will be provided at no charge in from all over the United States, inthe school gym, Robinson said, but players will need their own cluding some of the most highly rebedding and money to buy food. cruited players in

the country, are expected to attend. Moreover, the tournament will

unfold during a live NCAA recruiting period, giving players from outside the usual recruiting areas a chance to show their talents and talk to college coaches

Local scoreboard

Military basketball

USAFE small units tournament
RAF FAIRFORD, England — Results
from the 2005 USAFE small units basket-ball tournament, a pool-play event that
ends Saturday:
Tuesday's games
Gellenkirchen 75, St. Mawgan 58

Gellenkirche St. Allerson St. Menure St. Keflavik BS. Alconbury S4 Stavanger 76, Lajes 68 Stavanger 76, Lajes 68 Stavanger 76, Lajes 68 Alconbury S4 Stavanger 78, Alconbury S4 Stavanger 8, Alconbury S4 Stavanger 8, Keflavik Stavanger 98, Keflavik Stavanger 98, Keflavik Lajes 98, Alconbury Stavanger 98, Keflavik Lajes 98, Alconbury Stavanger 98, Fairford 98, Alconbury Stavanger 98, Alconbury S

Gellenkirchen vs. Croughton Fairford vs. Lajes Alconbury vs. Stavanger Alconbury vs. Stavanger Geilenkirchen vs. Menwith Hill Keflavik vs. Lajes Croughton vs. St. Mawgan Friday's games Consolation games, 10 a.m., noon and 2 nm.

p.m. Semifinals, 4 and 6 p.m. Saturday's games
Third place, 10 a.m.
Championship, noon.

Armstrong backs Paris 2012 bid

PARIS - Lance Armstrong threw his support behind Paris' bid for the 2012 Olympics on Wednesday, the same day Inter-national Olympic Committee members started assessing the city's bid for the Games

In an interview with The Associated Press, the six-time Tour de France winner acknowledged he is torn between the competing Paris and New York bids, but said the French capital deserves to be picked.

Paris would be "outstanding." said Armstrong, who hails from Austin. Texas. New York also merits support given "everything they went through the last four, five years," he said, referring to the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. But he added: "If they don't win in 2012, they could win in 2016."

Moscow, Madrid and London also are competing. The Olympic host will be decided in a vote by the IOC in Singapore on July 6 French officials showed the

13-member IOC panel their plans for 2012, including presentations about the sites that would be used and the plans to build a \$2.52 billion Olympic village on an old railway yard in northern Paris.

Mayor Bertrand Delanne. sports minister Jean-Francois amour, bid director Philippe Baudillon and others took part in the meeting at the hotel where the IOC panel is staying. Inspectors arrived Tuesday for a four-day tour of the city considered the favorite to stage the Sum-

Armstrong said Paris was "arguably the best candidate" for the 2008 Olympics, which went to Beijing instead

"To be fair, I think that Paris deserves the Olympics," he said before starting Wednesday's stage of the Paris-Nice race.

Armstrong has a soft spot for Paris. For six straight years he has ridden onto the famed Champs-Elvsees as winner of the Tour de

Sports briefs

France. But as an American, he has feelings for New York, too. "You've put me in a hard place but I think Paris should be an out-

standing city. But I also think that in some points New York de-serves to have something as special as the Olympics," he said.

Marshall grid coach retires

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. - Marshall football coach Bob Pruett retired Wednesday after nine years saving it was time to move on.

The 61-year-old Pruett told the team of his decision in the morning and held a news conference three hours later. Larry Kueck, Marshall's associate offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, will serve as interim coach.

"It's not about winning and losing. It's not about money. It's not about anything I didn't get," Pruett said. "It's just time. It's well thought out. This is not a sudden

Athletic director Bob Marcum was disappointed. "There's no doubt, I've tried ev-

erything possible to talk coach Pruett out of it. In fact, I offered him my job," Marcum said joking-ly. "I said, 'Listen, if you want to be the athletic director, that's no problem. I'm highly mobile.'

"He said, 'That's crazy. I'm giving up one pressure cooker. Why do I want to take another one?"

The decision comes as Marshall prepares to enter Confer-ence USA this fall. The Thundering Herd finished their final season in the Mid-American Conference with a 6-6 record, their first on-winning season in 21 years. The school moved to Division I-A in 1997, a year after it won the Division I-AA national champion-

Pruett is the most successful coach in Marshall history, going 94-23 with five MAC champion ships and five bowl victories.

Henin-Hardenne plans return at Miami Nasdag-100 Open

BRUSSELS, Belgium - Justine Henin-Hardenne plans to return to tennis for the Nasdaq-100 Open in Miami later this month after re covering from a knee injury.

Formerly the world's top-ranked player, Henin-Hard-enne has won the French, Australian and U.S. Opens the past two

The knee injury ended her hopes of defending her Austra-lian Open title, forcing her to pull out of the January tournament. "She has no more pain in her right knee," said a statement on her Web site

Women's downhill postponed LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland

The final women's World Cup downhill of the season was post-poned Wednesday by heavy snowfall and was rescheduled for early

Thursday. A men's training session slated for Wednesday afternoon was also scrapped and moved to Thursday afternoon, about 1½ hours before the actual race, as officials struggled with limited time opportunities remaining

Both the women's and men's final downhill were originally slated for Wednesday, but bad weather all week has made a mess of the program.

The finals end Sunday but no races have been held

Ex-heavyweight champ Page upgraded to fair condition

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Former BA heavyweight champion Greg Page has been upgraded to fair condition, although he re-mains on a ventilator in intensive

Page, 46, was admitted to Jew-ish Hospital on Feb. 20 with pneu-

monia and other complications. The hospital said Wednesday that Page's condition is slowly improving and he is resting comfort-

Love Stars and Stripes' Photo of the Day feature?

he's seeking

"This is a great opportunity for DODDS athletes," Robinson said. "It will provide them with the

kind of experience and exposure

they need to advance to the next

No formal registration is re-

quired, Robinson said. Prospects

should show up at Kaiserslautern

tax-deductible contributions to de-

fray the expenses of taking a

team to Florida. He said he'd also

welcome volunteers to help with

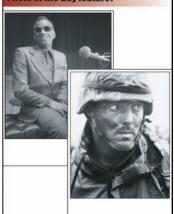
Anyone seeking information about donating or helping can call

Robinson at (+49) (0)631-99351.

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryanr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Robinson said

the tryouts.



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Kansas City, Minnesota get defensive

Kendrell Bell signed with the Kansas City Chiefs and Fred Smoot agreed to a deal with the Minnesota Vikings as two of

the NFL's worst defenses plugged holes through free agency Tuesday.

Smoot had 16 intercentions over five seasons with the Washington Red-

skins and was selected as an alternate to the Pro Bowl. He will form a quality tandem at cornerback with Antoine Winfield, who was Minnesota's top free agent signed last season

Bell, the former Pittsburgh linebacker, was AP Defensive Rookie of the Year in 2001. He played in only three games last season because of groin and shoulder injuries, and Pittsburgh re-signed the much cheaper Larry Foote, who started most of the season in his place.

The New York Giants also passed on Bell last week because of his injury history and salary demands and signed Antonio Pierce from Washington, Pierce had

Chiefs sign LB Bell; Vikings add CB Smoot

played in a 4-3, while Bell's experience was in a 3-4.

That didn't seem to trouble Kansas City. which has been desperately seeking an im-pact player for its defense the past few

"He is a quality football player as well as a quality person," Chiefs President Carl Peterson said of Bell, who signed a seven-vear deal.

In other deals Tuesday, Tampa Bay re-signed veteran wide receiver Joey Galloway and Cleveland signed a former Buc, guard Cosey Coleman. The Browns also redid the contract of veteran quarterback Trent Dilfer, obtained from Seattle over the weekend, and extended his deal from one year to four.

"I feel like I've got a lot of football left." Dilfer said. "I love this game. I love the travel. I love the way Mondays feel after a win or a loss. I love the pressure. There's not a guy who loves football more than I do. I feel like my best football is ahead of me."

Another wide receiver, Santana Moss passed his physical with Washington after being traded from the New York Jets for wideout Laveranues Coles. The deal will be completed when Coles passes a physical

Another receiver, Cedrick Wilson, left San Francisco to sign with Pittsburgh, apparently ending any chance the Steelers will re-sign Plaxico Burress, Burress, who has gotten less attention than expected, is scheduled to visit the Giants on Wednes-

"A lot of strange things can happen in free agency," Steelers director of football operations Kevin Colbert said. "We never want to say never.

Safety Robert Griffith agreed to a two-year contract with Arizona, the Cardinals' fourth free agent acquisition. The team previously signed offensive tackle Oliver Ross (Steelers), quarterback Kurt Warner (Giants) and defensive end Chike Okeafor (Seahawks).

winter and, I mean, who's surprised by that?" coach Dennis Green said. "You think I could stand another year like last year? There's just no way."

Griffith, 34, left the Browns to rejoin Green, who brought him into the NFL in 1994 with the Vikings as an undrafted rookie out of San Diego State. The 5-foot-11, 200-pound Griffith made a career-high 157 tackles, including 93 solos, eight tackles-for-loss, one interception and one sack in 2004

The Giants also announced the signing of former Atlanta kicker Jay Feely and are expected to sign veteran Jim Miller as a backup to second-year quarterback Eli Manning.

New England, which lost Joe Andruzzi to Cleveland, re-signed its other guard, Stephen Neal, a college wrestler who never played football at Cal State-Bakersfield.

Carolina Panthers receiver Ricky Proehl, who turned 37 on Monday, will put retirement on hold and return for one more season, his 16th in the NFL

Romanowski shed tears on the stand

BY IVAN DELVENTHAL

Contra Costa Times (Walnut Creek, Calif.)

OAKLAND, Calif. - Bill Romanowski, the former Oakland Raiders linebacker, teared up Tuesday afternoon as he testified about his own Jekyll-and-Hyde persona — one side a gladiator in the NFL and the other a mild-mannered husband and father of two

Romanowski's testimony came in the trial of a lawsuit brought against him by ex-teammate Marcus Williams over a punch on the practice field a year and a half

Williams, 27, contends that Romanowski, a 16-year NFL veter-an, knocked off his helmet and connected with a right-hand to the face during practice with the Raiders on Aug. 24, 2003. Williams' attorneys say the blow was unprovoked and knocked Williams, a special teams player and aspiring tight end, out of professional football

James Brosnahan, Williams' lead attorney, called Romanowski to the witness stand on Tuesday.

During his testimony, tears welled up in Romanowski's eves as he described the challenges of being a pro football player and a citizen in the ordinary world.

"You had this family man off the field with a wife and two kids," Romanowski said of himhis voice breaking. "Then you have this so-called warrior on the field "

Dressed in a tan suit and blue shirt. Romanowski testified that he is now working on a book entitled "Romo: My Jekyll and Hyde Life," which explores the issue of his two-sided personality.

In court Tuesday he admitted to punching Williams on the day in question, but said he did so during a fight that broke out at the end of a play during practice. Romanowski, 38, said he reacted after being pushed in the back by the younger player.

"Did you punch him as hard as vou could?" Brosnahan asked. "I wouldn't know," Romanows-

Medical experts called by Williams have testified that the punch broke the ex-player's eye socket and caused brain trauma that brought on an array of cognitive

and emotional problems. During his questioning, Brosnahan delved into four on-field incidents during Romanowski's career, including one kick, one nunch and two improper hits that occurred during games and that resulted in the league imposing tens of thousands of dollars in

In one 1997 incident cited by Brosnahan, Romanowski, then with the Denver Broncos, was fined \$20,000 by the NFL for a helmet-to-helmet hit that broke the jaw of Carolina Panthers quarterback Kerry Collins.

Romanowski testified that football is a "very violent, violent game" and that "there are things that happen out there that you get fined for

During questioning by Jeffrey Springer, his own attorney, Romanowski said he felt badly for Williams He testified that both he and Williams should be accountable for what occurred.

The questioning also gave him the chance to narrate for the jury the story of his life, and Ro manowski became emotional at times. He spoke of being a 5-foot-9, 140-pound ninth-grader in Vernon, Conn., who decided after reading a Sports Illustrated article about legendary running back Herschel Walker that he

to 6-3 and 215 pounds — he was would win a football scholarship. heavily recruited. By his senior year, Romanows

work and genes - he had grown Romanowski is set to continue

Testifying in the suit brought

against him by an ex-teammate,

ki (above) cried while saying it

player, husband and father.

was difficult to be a pro football

former linebacker Bill Romanows-



ki told the jury, thanks to hard testifying Wednesday.



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SPORTS



K-town coach offering DODDS players chance to showcase talents in AAU tournament. Page 46





Trade for Webber isn't having effect 76ers were hoping for



Johnson makes his spring debut

for Yankees Page 41



Chiefs bolster defense by signing ex-Steeler Bell

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As Oakland players celebrate. Oral Roberts' Luke Spencer-Gardner reacts to losing in the Mid-Continent Conference championship on Tuesday.

Oakland upsets top-seeded Oral Roberts, earns Mid-Continent's NCAA berth with losing record

By JEEF LATZKE The Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. - All those impossible road trips and murderous nonconference games have fi-

nally paid off for Oakland. After starting the season with seven losses and getting roughed up at Illinois, Missouri, Xavier, Texas A&M and Michigan State, the Golden Grizzlies are going to the NCAA tournament with a 12-18 record

Pierre Dukes hit a three-nointer with 1.3 seconds left and Oakland (Mich.) upset top-seeded Oral Roberts 61-60 Tuesday night to win the Mid-Continent Conference tournament and an automatic bid to the NCAAs.

"Even though our record might not show it, we are a good team forward Rawle Marshall said "We know how to play."

Oakland got its chance to win after Jonathan Bluitt hit one of two free throws to make it 60-58. Marshall found Dukes on the left side, and Dukes was looking to make another pass, but he couldn't find anyone open.



Oakland's Patrick McCloskey blocks a shot by Oral Roberts' Caleb Green during the first half of the Mid-Continent tournament final.

"I wasn't on-balance, but the clock was running down and I couldn't find Rawle or Cortney [Scott], so I had to let it fly,"

The shot splashed through, and when Ken Tutt couldn't hit a desperation jumper for Oral Roberts, the Golden Grizzlies celebrated in a huddle on the court.

It's the fourth straight season a team with a losing record has made the NCAA tournament. Each of the previous three — Siena in 2002, North Caroli--Asheville in 2003 and Florida A&M last year — won the "play-in" game, then lost to the

No. 1 seed in the first round.

Oakland finished 7-9 in the conference and was the seventh seed in the tournament. The Grizzlies never won more than two games in a row in the regular season, but have a five-game winning streak after three straight tournament victories.

"This season, through a lot of adversity, a lot of tough losses," Marshall said. "It couldn't get no worse for us. "We just wanted to go out there we just wanted to go out there and play, and that's all we wanted to do. The pressure wasn't on us. It was on them."

Two more teams advanced to the NCAAs. In the Horizon, Wisconsin-Milwaukee beat Detroit 59-58; in the Sun Belt, Louisiana-Lafayette beat Denver 88-69.

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Armstrong backs Paris bid over New York for 2012 Page 46

